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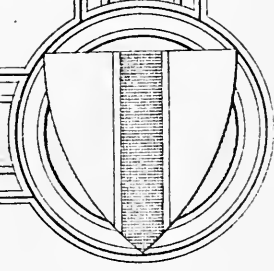
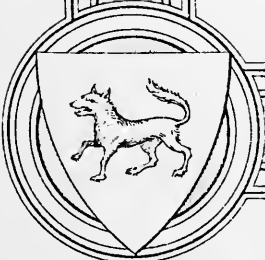
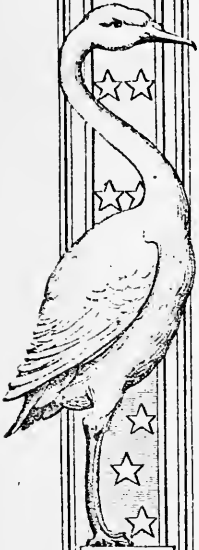
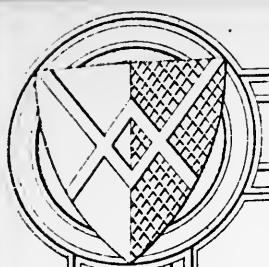
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MEMORIALS  
 OF THE FAMILY  
 OF  
**WEMYSS OF WEMYSS**

BY  
 SIR WILLIAM FRASER  
 K.C.B. L.L.D.

v. 3  
 VOLUME III.-CORRESPONDENCE

EDINBURGH

1888.





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# ABSTRACT OF WEMYSS CORRESPONDENCE.

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We for reasons referable to our self and confidential meeting had to be the true  
 brief of our self and others known to our Lord David Vanda of par. 1st & 25th  
 and while at home for our said wife's benefit & pass with us to the finding of  
 our nature and in judgment following the said and well and greatly  
 that he will not be without our mind any part or danger of them in his person  
 hand or judgment any way depending thereon any one of the persons  
 from or through our said or take away the nature or any part thereof  
 and the said we do hereby give you our full and entire power  
 authority and sole power in your name and person to do all whatsoever  
 shall be necessary and convenient to do in and about the said land and  
 effect in yet for the use of the said person and to our said land  
 which we hereby give you and of our nature the said person  
 according to the said land and find to be good and lawful to make  
 we have at our said and

J. Ward





# Correspondence

of the

## Family of Wemyss of Wemyss.

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### I.—LETTERS FROM SOVEREIGNS AND STATE OFFICIALS OF SCOTLAND.

1. LICENCE by KING JAMES THE FIFTH to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk to stay at home from the Justice-eyres at Haddington. 26th May [1529].

REX.

WE, for certane resonabill caussis and considerationis moving ws, be the tenor heirof, grantis and gevis licence to our louit Daid Wemis of that Ilk, to remane and bide at hame fra our raid now deisit to pas with ws to the haldin of our iustice aris in Hadingtoun, Jedburgh, Selkirk, and Peblis; and will and grantis, that he sall nocht be accusit, nor incur ony skath or danger tharthrou, in his persoun, landis, or gudis in ony wis, in tyme cuming, nochtwithstanding ony our letteris, proclamationis, or chargeis maid or to be maid in the contrar, or ony panis contenit tharin; anent the quhilkis, we dispens with him, be thir our letteris, dischargeing all our officiaris present and tocum, and thar deputis and schireffis in that part, of all accusatioun, trubilling, and intrometting with the said Daid, his landis or gudis, tharfor, and of thar offices in that part,

A



be thir our letteris, foreuir. Subscriuit with our hand at Edinburgh, the xxvi day of Maii, and of our regnne the xvi yere. Providing allwayis that the said Dauid send his brother and houshald with ws to mak ws seruice at our said raid.

JAMES R.

2. LICENCE by KING JAMES THE FIFTH to' DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk to pass into France on a pilgrimage to St. John of Anees [Amiens]. 9th January 1530.

REX.

WE, for the gud, trew, and thankfull seruice done to ws be oure louit Dauid Wemys of that Ilk, and for certane vtheris resonable caussis and considerationis moving ws, be the tenour hereof grantis and gevis licence to him to pas to Sanct Johne of Anees in France, in pilgramage, and thair remane for doing of his said pilgramage and vtheris his lefull erandis, for the space of ane yeir nixt and immediatlie followand his departing furth of oure realme; and will and grantis, that he sall nocht be accusit, nor incur ony skaith or danger thairthrou, in his persoun, landis, or gudis, in ony wyse, in tyme cuming, nochtwithstanding ony oure letteris, proclamacionis, or chargis, maid or to be maid in the contrare, or ony panis contenit tharin; anent the quhilkis, we dispens with him, be thir oure letteris, dischargeing all our officiaris, present and to cum, and thar deputis, of all accusatioun, trubling, and intrometting with the said Dauid, his landis or gudis, tharfor, and of thar offices in that part, be thir our letteris, for euir; previdand allwayis, at the said Dauidis houshald, his seruandis and tennentis, be redy, all tyme, till ansuere ws and oure luvettenmentis quhen we haif ado, as vtheris oure trew liegis, nochtwithstanding the said Dauidis absens. Subscriuit with oure hand and vndir our signet, at Striueling, the nynt day of Januare, the yeire of God i<sup>m</sup>v<sup>c</sup>xxx yeris, and of oure regnne the xviii yeire.

JAMES R.



3. LETTER by KING JAMES THE FIFTH to DAVID WEMYSS of Wester Wemyss. To cause his cousin, Cuthbert Wemyss, to pay his teind salt to the Parson of Dysart. 3d December [1534].

REX.

WEILBELUFIT frende, we greit you hartlie weil. Forsamekill as our familiar clerk and dailye seruitour the persoun of Dysert is, as ye ken, continuallye in our seruice, and hes the said personage to leve apoun as yit without ony other benefes, and nochtwithstanding that the frutis thair of ar small, as we ar treulye informit, thair is ane part of his teynd salt thair of withhaldin be ane cousing of youris, callit Cutthbert Vemys, quha, be his wnthankfullnes and ingratitude to our said seruitour, als weil in vncurtas bering to his seruantis as be his awin vnrychtfulnes, perseuerand in his wrang towart him, gevis exempyll to otheris to do the samyn : heirfor we desire you to caus your said kynnisman reform himself, and that ye fail nocht to se that he amend quhair he hes failyit, schortly ; failyeand thair of, we sall nocht fail to provyde sic remeid be iustice, that he sall be ane exempyll to otheris to forbeir sic vrangis in tyme cumyng ; and this ye failye nocht to do, as ye will eschew our indignatioun in that part ; and gif we fynd ye correct sic manifest and opyn vrangis done to our said seruitour or ony otheris, we sall remembir the samyn eftirwart quhen [ye] hafe ado witht ws. Forthir, it will pleis you gif credence to this berar our seruitour. Given vnder our signet and subscriuit with our hand, at Pettyweme, the thride day of December, and of our ring the xxii yeir.

To our weilbelouit freind the Lard of Westir Wemys.



4. KING JAMES THE FIFTH to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk, requiring him to pass with the King to put order to the Borders. 21st May [1536].

REX.

VEILBELOUIT frend, we grete yow. Forsamekill as we ar of pourpas to pas to Kelso, and to vesy owr Bordouris for ordoneng of the samyn and for dunputting of sic thyngis as owr pour legis ar hurt by: Heirfor, we prey yow rycht affectuusly that ye addres yow to be at ws in Sterling with yowr honest howshald, rady and bodin in hors and geir, to remane xx days, afferandly to yowr honor and ouris, the penult day of Meii, to pas with ws, as ye will do ws singular plesowr. Gewin at Sterling, the xxi day of Meii, and of owr regne xxiiij yeir.

JAMES R.

To our weilbelouit freind the Laird of Wemys.

5. KING JAMES THE FIFTH to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk, requiring him to come to Edinburgh to welcome home the King and Queen Magdalen, daughter of the King of France. 8th February [1537].

JAMES, be the grace of God, King of Scottis, to oure traist and weilbelouit freund, Daid Wemys of that Ilk, greting. Forsamekle as we haue writtin to ane maist reuerend fader in God and oure traist counsalour, Gawine, Archibishop of Glasgw, our Chancellor, and to the Lordis Regentis of oure realme, schawand to thame oure grete welefaire and prosperite in all materis and effaris in the partis of Fraunce, and specialie of the completing of our mariage with the eldest dochter of the maist Cristiane king, oure confiderate and allya, the King of Fraunce, to the hie honour, welefair, and reiosing of ws and all oure liegis, exhortand oure said Chancellor and Regentis, herefore, to caus sik





ordinances and honesteis to be had be oure estatis as efferis for the ressauyng and blytht returnyng of ws and oure derrest spous and quene: Oure will is herefor, and we pray yow rycht effectuouslie, that ye, with youre kin, freundis, and seruandis, address you in your best wys with honorable abilyementis, baitht for hors and fute, with your cumpany efferand to your estate and degree, to ane honest novmer, as ye sall think expedient, for ressauyng and meting of ws and oure said quene, quhilk is belevit to be about the tent day of Aprile nixtocum, for your awine honour; and that ye be reddy to cum to oure burgh of Edinburgh vpoun x days warnyng to the samyn effect, as ye will report speciale thankis of ws thairfor. Gevin vnder our signet at Edinburgh, the viii day of Februar, and of oure regnne the xxiii yere.

PER DOMINOS CONSILII, ETC.

6. EXEMPTION by KING JAMES THE FIFTH to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk from attendance at Inquests and Assizes, as he was to remain with the King. 26th June 1538.

JAMES, be the grace of God, King of Scottis, to all and sindry oure iustices, schireffis, iustice-clerkis, crownaris, and thare deputis, and all vthiris oure officiaris, liegis, and subditis quham it efferis, quhais knowlege thir our letteris salcum, greting. Forsamekle as we haue commandit our louit, Dauid Wemys of that Ilk, to remane with ws and to awaite apoun our seruice, tharfor, and for vthiris resonable caussis and considerationis moving ws, we haif exemit and dischargit, and be thir our letteris specialie exemis and dischargis the said Dauid fra all passing apoun ony inqueistis or assissis in actionis criminale or ciuile, for serving of brevis, apprising of landis, or ony vthir wais, during all the dais of his life; and will and grantis that he sall incur na danger nor skayth in his landis nor gudis for non compering to pas apoun ony inqueistis or assissis within our realme during his lifytyme,



as said is ; anent the quhilkis, we dispens with him be thir presentis, dischargeing you all and sindry, oure iustices, schireffis, iustice-clerkis, crovnaris, and your deputis, and vtheris oure officiaris, liegis, and subditis forsaidis, of all calling, vnlawing, joinnaying, trubling, poynding, or distrinyeing of the said Dauid, his landis or gudis, tharfor, and of your offices in that part, be thir our letteris, for ever. Subscriuit with our hand, and vnder our Priue Sele, at Sanctandrois, the twenty-sext day of Junii, the yeire of God i<sup>m</sup>v<sup>c</sup>xxxviiij yeris, and of oure regne the xxv yeire.

JAMES R.

7. LETTER by JAMES EARL OF ARRAN, Regent of Scotland, to JOHN WEMYSS of that Ilk. To meet him at Dumfries with his kin and friends, for recovering the Castle of Caerlaverock. 31st October [1545].

GUBERNATOR.

RYCHT traist freynd, eftir hartlie commendatioun : Forsamekle as it is thocht expedient be the Counsale that we pas in proper persoun to Drumfreis for recouering of the hous of Carlauerok and ordouring of the west cuntreis liand to thai marchis, and that with grete diligence for sindrie respectis sic as ye sall knaw mair cleirlye at youre cuming to ws, heirfore we pray yow in oure maist effectuis maner that ye adres yow to meit ws in Drumfreis the nixt Wednesday at evin, with ane gude and substantious cumpany of your kin, freindis, and seruandis, for your auis and counsale to be had in sic grete materis as concernis the weill of that cuntre, and putting of gude reule and ordour thairin, and to remane in thai partis x dais, as ye lufe to schaw your self afauldlie effectit to serue the Quenis Graces auctorite, and to do the office of ane trew noble barroun of this realme ; and Almychty God haue yow in keiping. At Linlithqw, the last day of October.

JAMES G.

To our traist freind the Lard of Wemys, etc.



Embarnator

It is true every one of the latter imitations of your name as it is the republic  
is a complete just now in proper party to declare for some time  
of your of malice and my ordering of you just to send to you, with  
the best order of yours for some of your friends for some new letters at  
you finding to me / I know you pay 2000 in some most effective manner  
at 70 address 2000 to meet the 100 dollars you not probably becom the  
you and the others signs of your friends has provided for 700 and  
of 200 to 2000 in the price made at some time you were of it must be sent  
I hope never to see you again and to remember you just to send to the  
to show you not a single effort to show you quite worse and send to  
to show of and has been made every day of you with a 1000 to you  
in buying one more you like day of order

J.M.C.T.

To 8 West from the  
hand of yours up



8. JAMES EARL OF ARRAN, Regent, to JOHN WEMYSS of that Ilk, requiring him to bring artillery to the siege of the Castle of St. Andrews. 31st October [1546].

## GUBERNATOR.

TRAIST freind, eftir hertlie commendatioun : Forsamekle as we wrait to yow laitlie, how we war aduertist surlie of the incuming of ane armye of our auld inymeis of Ingland, in the licht of this mone, to thir partes, for invasioun of this realme and ressavng and reskew of the castell of Sanctandros, quhairin presentlie ar certane rebelles favoraris of Ingland agane the weill of this cuntre, and thairfor desiring yow to cum fordwart to ws heir, in Sanctandros, the ferd day of Nouember nixt for resisting of the samyn, or sonar, as belis war brynt in placis assignit thairto, brynging with yow your folkis and frendis, commones and vtheris, that ye may rais to that effect. And becaus it is belevit this armye is to cum be sey, and to descend and land at sum part of this cost, herefor we pray yow effectuousle, as ye cum fordwart to the effect forsaid, that ye bryng with yow all small artalyery ye have, with povder and geir ganyng thairfor, to the carieyng and tursing of the samyn, as ye luf the weill and liberte of the realme, and will have ws adett to do for yow. And God have yow in keping. At Sanctandros, the last day of October.

JAMES G.

To our traist freind the Lard of Wemiss.

9. LICENCE by MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS and JAMES EARL OF ARRAN, Regent, to retainers of John Wemyss of that Ilk to stay at home to defend the place of Wemyss. 12th July 1547.

## REGINA.

WE, with avise and consent of oure derrest cousing and tutour, James Erle of Arrane, Lord Hammiltoun, etc., protector and governour of oure realme, for diuers ressonable caussis moving ws, be the tenour heirof grantis and gevis licence to oure louittis, Johnne Clerk, Robert





Gourlay, Johnne Jaksoun, Patrik Trumbill, Williame Cade, James Skadowe, James Wilsoun, Johnne Thomsoun, Andro Abircrummy, Alexander Wilsoun, Alexander Swyne, James Cade, David Duncan, seruandis to oure louit Johnne Wemis of that Ilk, to remane and bide in his place of Wemis, for defence and keping thairof now, in tyme of his absence at this oure present oist and army, in cais oure auld enemyis of England happin to inuaid the samyn be sey or vther wayis during the tyme of oure said army, and will and grantis that the saidis personis sall nocht be summond, callit, nor accusit for thair absence, remaning and biding fra oure said oist, raid, and army, nor incur ony skaith thairthrou in thair personis, landis, or gudis, in ony wise in tyme cuming, nochtwithstanding ony oure actis, statutis, letteris, proclamationis, or chargeis, generall or speciall, maid or to be maid, in the contrar, or ony panis contenit thairin, anent the quhilkis we dispens with thame be thir oure letteris, discharginge all and sindry our lieutenantis, wardanis, iustices, iustice clerkis, schireffis, stewartis, crownaris, and thair deputis, and all vtheris oure officiaris and schireffis in that part, present and to cum, of all summoning, calling, inditing, attacheing, arresting, iurnaing, accusatioun, following, persewing, proceding, vnlawing, poinding, trubilling and intrometting with the saidis personis or ony of thame, thair landis or gudis, for thair remaning and absence fra oure said raid, oist, and army, during the tyme thairof, and of thair offices in that part foreuir, be thir oure letteris. Gevin vnder oure signet, and subscriuit be oure said derrest cousing, tutour, and gouernour, at Peblis, the tuelf day of Julii, the yeir of God 1<sup>m</sup>v<sup>c</sup>xlviij yeris, and of oure regne the fyft yeir.





10. MARY, QUEEN DOWAGER, Regent, to JOHN WEMYSS of that Ilk. 3d September 1548.

REGINA.

WEILBELOUIT freynd, we greit yow weill. Forsamekill as it is humelie schewin to ws be oure louit Dauid Abircrummy, oure tenent of oure landis of Cameroun, with the pertinentis, liand in oure lordschip of Fiff, that his predecessouris and the tenentis of oure saidis landis hes bene, and is, in vse and possessioun of commoun pasture with thare catale on the mure nixt adjacent thairto in tyme bigane past memour of man, without interruptioun or impediment, and that youre seruandis now makis thame to molest and truble oure said tennent and his seruandis to pasture his catale on the said mure, and thairthrow makis thame impediment thairintill, at thare avne hand, quharof we merwell; heirfore we requeist yow to suffir oure said tenent to pasture his catale and gudis vpoun the foirsaid mure, siclike as he and his predecessouris, occupiaris of the saidis landis, hes done in tymes bipast, and caus youre saidis seruandis to desist and ceis fra all forthir molestatioun and trubling of oure said tenent and his seruandis thairintill in tyme cuming; and heireftir, we sall tak cognicioun in the said caus, and mak justice to be equalie ministerit as efferis. This ye do, as ye will ansuere to ws thairupoun. Subscriuit with oure hand and gevin vnder oure signete at Edinburgh, the thrid day of September, the yeire of God i<sup>m</sup>v<sup>c</sup>xlviij yeris.

MARIE R.

To oure weilbelouit freynd Johne Wemys of that Ilk, etc.

11. MARY, QUEEN DOWAGER, Regent, to THE SAME. To receive George Davidson in custody. 20th July, circa 1555.

TRAIST freynd, eftir oure hartlie commendatioun: We haif bene in Jedburgh, puttand reull vpoun the Bordouris, and takand plegeis of



the clannis and vtheris quhilkis mycht be maist noysum to the peax, and, becaus it wald be cummersum to ws to caus the saidis plegeis be kept in castellis and strenthis and draw the pure men to expenssis, it is thocht expedient that thai be sparpalit and put to remane among the noble men of the invart partis of this realme, quhill we caus ordoure be takin for thair releif; and this berar desyris to be in cumpany with yow, callit George Daudisoun. Praying yow effectuislie to resaif him and treate him as pertenis to his estait for the space of twa monethis, that ane vther of that clan cum to releif him, as ye will do ws veray grete plesour in that behalf. For albeit he eschew fra yow, ye sall incur na danger, be ressonne that we haif causit tak cautioun for his remanyng. And God keip yow. At Jedburgh, the xx day of Julii.

To our traist freynde  
the Lard of Wemys.

12. LICENCE by MARY, QUEEN DOWAGER, Regent, to THE SAME.  
To remain from the army at Falamoore. 6th October [1557].

REGINA.

WE, vnderstanding that Johnne Wemys of that Ilk hes bene of ald, and yit is, vexit and hevelie trublit with caterbis, quhilkis he is gritelie subiect to, and forder, is vexit alsua with the gravell, and be resoun that he wes laitlie in our seruice at the Bordouris, with Fyiff quarter, throw cald, evill lying, and vtheris incommoditeis, his maladeis sa inecessit that it behuiffit him, eftir his hamecuming, to tak bed, and to vse diuers medicinis for his heale; and now, being nocht weill conualescit, hes cum fordwardte with his folkis to this our present army, ordanit to convene on Fawlomure the secund day of October instant, and in his cuming, and being within Edinburgh, hes nocht alanerlie









bene trublit with the gravell, bot alsua counsalit be his medicinaris, and assurit be thame, gif he, in his jorney and passing fordwart to this army, tak cald (quhilk is extreme inemy to his infirmiteis), he wilbe in extreme dangeir and perrell of his lyiff; thairfoir, and becaus his abyding at hame may convene and gadder the cuntre on the sey cost, quhair he duellis, the mair earnestlie be resoun of his presens, and vtheris caussis and considerationis, haif grantit and gevin licence to him to remane and byde at hame fra this present army, he sendand fordward his folkis, houshald, and men, with his sone and air, sufficientlie furneist to serue ws thairin, as efferis; and will and grantis that he sall nocht be summondit, callit, nor accusit thairfoir, nor incur ony skaith or dangeir thairthrou in hys persoun, landis, or gudis in ony wyis in tyme cuming, nochtwithstanding ony our actis, statutis, letteris, proclamationis or charges maid or to be maid in the contrair, or ony panes contenit thairin: anent the quhilkis we dispens with him, be thir our letteris, gevin vnder our signet, and subscriuit be our darrest moder, Marie Quene Dowriare and Regent of [our] realme, at [Edin]-burgh, the sext day of October, and of our regne the xv yeir.

MARIE R.

13. MARY, QUEEN DOWAGER, Regent, to THE SAME. Requiring his presence in Edinburgh. 6th March 1557.

TRAIST freind, efter hertlie commendatioun: Forsamekle as immediatlie eftir the abstinence takin betuix this realme and England, we direct[it our] seruitour, the young Laird of Lethingtoun, vnto the Quene of England to know how scho was myndit to peax, and becaus we haif nocht gottin aduertisement of him sen his depairting, hes na gude esperance that ony peax or forther abstinence sall follow: and thairfoir neidfull it is to provide in dew tyme the resistence of our inymeis. Quhairfoir, and for sic vtheris effaris as concernis the commoun wele, quhairvnto your presens and auis is necessar to be



had, we pra yow effectuislie that ye addres yow to be heir in Edinburgh on Wednesday, the ix of this instant, to the effect foirsaid, as ye will do ws verray he plesour [in that] behalf. And God keip yow. At Edinburgh, the vi day of Marche 1557. MARIE R.

To our traist freind the Lard of Wemys.

14. MARY, QUEEN DOWAGER, Regent, to THE SAME. Requiring his presence in Edinburgh. 25th December 1559.

TRAIST freynd, eftir hertlie commendatioun : We wrait to yow laitlie, twa sindry tymes of befoir, first to haue bene at ws with all diligence, and secundlie, appoyntit to yow the sevint day of Januar nixtocum, be our vther writing; quhilk last writing the rebellaris and conspiratoris aganis the King and Quenis auctorite hes takin be the way, to the effect that, for laik of warning, the nobilite of this realme, for quham we wrait, suld nocht repair towart ws, to gif thair counsale in ordoureing of the effairis of the commoun wele, that thairby thai may the mair easelie continew in thair rebellioun. Quhairfoir we pray you effectuislie that ye addres you to be at ws the xiiij day of the said moneth of Januar, as ye will declair your obedience vnto your Soueranis seruice and ws, the affectioun ye beir vnto your natiue cuntre, and will do ws maist acceptable plesour in that behalf. Thus we commit you to God. At Edinburgh, the xxv day of December 1559.

MARIE R.

To our traist freind the Lard of Wemys, etc.

15. JAMES, DUKE OF CHATELHERAULT, and LORDS OF THE CONGREGATION to THE SAME. Requiring him to subscribe the band. 10th February 1559.

EFTIR oure hertlie commendatioun : We vndirstand, be my Lord Priour, of the ordoure takin be him with you, and the rest of the gentilmen of



the cuntre at oure command, quhairwith we stand content richt hertlie, and forthir vnderstandis be him of the gude mynd, ye, youre sone and seruandis, beris to this caus, commoun to ws and yow; and that ye haif promittit to assist to ws in setting of the samin fordwart for the commoun wele of this oure native realme, and hes desirit ws to accept the samin of yow without forthir subscriptioun, quhilke we wald glaidlie accept, wer nocht ye ar ane of the principale baronis of the cuntre; and gif ye subscribe nocht the band quhilkis is . . . subscriuit be the maist pairt of the baronis of the cuntre, it will gif occasioun . . . [re]fuis the subscriptioun thair of; and thairfore, we can nocht stand content except ye [subscribe . . .]. Thairfore we pray you, rycht effectuoslie, that ye will subscribe the said band like [as the ma]jist pairt of the baronis of the cuntre hes done, swa that we and ye may be the mair habill to repres oure aduersaris, assuring yow that we sall prouide remeid for all sik as will nocht subscribe the samin, that ye and vtheris sall knaw that thai ar inemyis to the commoun welth of thair native cuntre. And as tuiching your avne persone, we ar content that ye be exemit fra cumin on the feildis, bot at your plesour, ye sendand your sone, freindis, and seruandis to assist to ws in this oure commoun caus. And God haif yow in his keping. Off Glasgw, the tent day of Februar 1559. Be your assurit gude freindis.

JAMES.

R. BOYD.

JAMES HAMILTON.

WCHELTRE.

AR<sup>D</sup> ERGYLL.

CONYNGHAMHEID.

GLENCARN.

To oure traist freind the Lard of Westir Wemys.



16. MARY, QUEEN DOWAGER, Regent, in favour of JOHN WEMYSS  
of that Ilk. 16th February 1559.

WE, hawying conseracioun of the trew service done to our derrest  
swn and dowchtir, and tw ws, be Jhone Wemys of that Ilk, contrair  
the rebellis and conspiraturis of this realm, and onderstandyng for  
thatt cawis the saidis conspiraturis, now beyng aydit be the force of  
England, tendis to put the said Johne, his hous, rowmis, possessiounis,  
kyn, and freindis to vtir distruktioun, grantis that, albeit David  
Wemys, bruthir to the said Johne, accwmpny the saidis conspira-  
touris, swa thatt be his lawboris may saiff the said Johne, his freindis  
and possessiouns, fra the violence of the saidis conspiraturis vntw  
the tyme that we be forther avysit, that the same salbe na cryme to  
the said David or Johne; and that thai sall nocht be callit nor accwsit  
thairfoir, and the said Johne sall nocht be imput to haiff offendit aganis  
his Soverens or ws thairthrow, be this our wrytyng, subscrivit wytht  
our hand at Edynbrught, the xvi day of Fabrewar, the yeir of God  
i<sup>m</sup>v<sup>o</sup>lix yeris.

MARIE R.

17. MATTHEW, EARL OF LENNOX, Regent, to JOHN WEMYSS of  
that Ilk. To receive Lancy Armstrong of Quhithauch in  
custody. 12th October 1570.

RYCHT traist freynd, efter hertlie commendation. We desyr yow  
effectuuslie to keip Lancy Armstrang of Quhithauch according to  
this vther letter quhilk we haif heirwith send yow, and that ye send  
Dauid Johnnestoun of Staywod, now being in your handes, to George  
Commendatar of Abirbrothok with this vther letter, quhome we haif  
appointit to ressaue the said Dauid of your handes. This we traist ye





Handwritten text, likely a letter or note, mentioning names like "Mr. Duff", "Mrs. Duff", "John Duff", "James Duff", "Mary Duff", "Elizabeth Duff", and "Sarah Duff". The text is partially obscured by a vertical crease.

Handwritten text, likely a letter or note, mentioning names like "Mr. Duff", "Mrs. Duff", "John Duff", "James Duff", "Mary Duff", "Elizabeth Duff", and "Sarah Duff". The text is partially obscured by a vertical crease.

Handwritten signature and date: "October 15 25"

Handwritten signature and text: "The end of changing"





J

To James Adams of the City of New York as not to him of the County of New York  
 as in and by the said Deed of Gift and Conveyance of the said James to the said Adams  
 in the said Deed and Copy of James' Will (1830) of Deed Book  
 registered and returned to the said Adams - it is to be seen and  
 no command was made of the said Adams - the said James to James Douglas  
 of the City of New York and George B. Smith to the said James  
 and of the said Adams to the said Adams - the said James to James Douglas  
 of the City of New York to the said Adams - it is to be seen and  
 the said Adams of the said James Douglas had from the said Adams of the said  
 Adams a part of the said Adams / the said Adams - the said Adams  
 a sufficient amount of the said Adams in the said Adams - the said Adams  
 and the said Adams of the said Adams of the said Adams of the said Adams  
 of the said Adams of the said Adams of the said Adams of the said Adams

May 1830  
 James Adams



will not fail to do as ye will do vs gude pleasour, and sa committis  
yow to God. At Edinburgh, the xii of October 1570.

Your assured freind,



To our richt traist freynd the Lard of Wemys.

18. JOHN, EARL OF MAR, Regent, to JOHN WEMYSS of that Ilk.  
To deliver Lancie Armstrong to James Douglas of Todholes.  
22d December 1571.

JOHNE WEMYS of that Ilk, forsamekle as we, with aulse of the  
Lordis of Secrete Counsale, haif ordanit Lancie Armstrang of Quhit-  
hauch to be deliuerit in the handes and keping of James Erle of  
Mortoun, Lord of Dalkeyth, Chancellair and Admirall of this realme,  
thairfore it is our will, and we command yow, that ye deliuer the said  
Lancie to James Douglas of Todholis, to be transportit and brocht be  
him to the said James Erll of Mortoun, to be kept according to the  
ordour takin thairanent, ressavand the said James Douglas letter vpoun  
the ressait of the said Lancie furth of your handes, quhilk, with thir  
presentis, sall serue and be sufficient warrand to yow in all tyme cuming.  
Subscriuit with our hand at Leyth, the xxij day of December, the yeir  
of God i<sup>m</sup>v<sup>c</sup> threscoir elleuin yeris.





19. LICENCE by KING JAMES THE SIXTH to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk and CECILIA RUTHVEN his wife, to eat flesh in Lent. 11th March 1573.

REX.

WE, be the tennour heirof, with auis and concept of our richt traist cousing, James Erle of Mortoun, Lord Dalkeyth, etc., Regent to ws, our realme and leigeis, gevis and grantis licence to oure louittis, Daid Wemys of that Ilk, Cicill Ruthven his spous, and twa seruandis with thame, to eit flesche als oft as thai sall think expedient during this forbodin tyme, fra the first day of Marche instant to the ellevint day of Apryill nixttocum, without cryme, harme, pane, skaith, or danger to be incurrit be thame in thair personis, landis, or gudis, notwithstanding ony our lawis, actis of Parliament, or proclamationis maid in the contrar, or ony panis contenit thairin; anent the quhilkis we dispens be thir presentis, dischargeing all our iugis and ministeris of our lawis off all calling, accusing, vnlawing, or ony wyis proceeding aganis the saidis personis thairfoir, and of thair offices in that pairt. Gevin vnder our signet, and subscriyvit be our said cousing and Regent, at Halyrudehous, the ellevint day of Marche, and of our regnne the sevint yeir, 1573.



20. JAMES, EARL OF MORTON, Regent, to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk. To allow Lancie Armstrong to go home. 2d February 1574.

LAIRD of Wemys, we ar content that ye suffer Lance Armstrang of Quhithauch depart hame to his dwelling-place for the space of xxvi





Land of Meams, we are about to get 20 in the same amount  
of gold and silver. I am to be Director plan to go for  
it by David J. report of 20000 and over for  
his estimate 20000 to 30000 in mass by 1850 first day  
of an article upon my 20 20000 to 20000  
Grand for quite for 20 20000 20000  
Grand 200 20000 20000 20000 20000  
20000 of 20000 20000 20000

JAMES REGENT



dayes, in respect of your awin band gevin for his reentrie agane to yow in ward, vpoun the first day of Marche nixtocum, as ye will ansuer to ws thairupoun, kepand thir presentis for your warrand. Subscriuit with our hand at Halyruidhous, the second day of Februar, the yeir of God i<sup>m</sup>v<sup>e</sup>lx fourtene yeris. JAMES REGENT.

21. JAMES, EARL OF MORTON, Regent, to THE SAME. To receive Archie Armstrong in custody. 4th October 1576.

RICHT traist freind, efter our maist hertlie commendatioun: The tyme appointit for the change of the plegeis now approcheand, we haue presentlie directit sic as suld lowis the vtheris for thair brancheis now liand. Quhairfore we desire yow effectuuslie, and, in our Souerane Lordes name, commandis yow that ye ressaue the berar heirop, namyt Archie Armstrang, secund sone to the Lard of Quhithauch, as plege for the gang of Quhithauch; quhom ye sall surelie keip in firmance, vnletting him eschaip, eschew, pas hame, or ony wyse depart out of your house and cumpany, vpoun licence, band, or ony vther pretens, quhill ye haue ane expres warrand and command of ws in write, sen thair is na souirtie for his remaining, as ye luif the quietnes of the cuntrie, and will ansuer vpoun your perrell vnder the pane of twa thousand pundis contenit in the act maid anent the keping of the plegeis. And the said Archie Armstrang being thus enterit, that ye lett Rinyane Armstrang of Twedane, plege now remaining in your custodie, to libertie and fredome, that he may pas hame at his pleasour: for quhilk this our letter salbe to yow sufficient warrand. At Dalkeith, the fourt day of October 1576.

Your assured freind,

JAMES REGENT.

To our richt traist freind the Lard of Wester Wemys.



22. JAMES, EARL OF MORTON, Regent, to THE SAME. To keep Archie Armstrong in place of Rinzane of Tweden. 7th August 1577.

RICHT traist freind, efter our hertlie commendationes: We ressaute your writing propertting that Rinyane of Tweden, wes letten to libertie, and Archie, sone to the Lard of Qulhithauch, enterit plege to yow in his rowme, befor the ressaite of our last letter. We remember it is sa indeid as ye write. Alwayes the occasioun of our writing proceedit on this, that we wer certifit that sum of the Armstrangis, depending afor on the Lord Maxwell, had begvn to be inobedient, and for that cause we wrait to all men that had the plegeis in keeping, to mak thame sure that the avowit fugitives suld be the wer accompanyt quhatsoeur thair pretens wer. Qubairfoir ye may keip this man now being in your cumpany, as ye keipit him and vtheris of that gang of befor, alwayes havand your awin securitie in hand that he sall nocht eschaip, as ye ar wys anewch to provide, and sa for this tyme leving to new occasioun, committis yow to God. At Halyruidhous, the vii day of August-1577.

Your assurit freynd,

JAMES REGENT.

To our richt traist freind the Laird of Wemys of that Ilk.

23. LICENCE BY KING JAMES THE SIXTH to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk, and CECILIA RUTHVEN his wife, to eat flesh in Lent. 20th February 1578.

REX.

WE, be the tennour heirop, with avyse and consent of our rycht traist cousing, James Erle of Mortoun, Lord Dalkeyth, etc., Regent to ws, our realme and liegis, gevis and grantis licence to our weilbelouittis Dauid Wemis of that Ilk, Cicila Ruthven his spous, and



I will find. We got Robt Hall being moved  
 the more of the specifications of his self & by his nobility barons &  
 gentlemen & other brethren in the company of the judges & certain  
 may consent for good order on the which the sum at least should  
 first be more as written in the said & suitable & ought to be  
 also for the castle of London & more in the same and Robt  
 & his heirs & assigns and put away any thing done to the contrary  
 of the substance of the said being in the said & not for the said & shall be  
 the custom & constable of the castle of the said land  
 and the said archbishop being sufficient to the said & the said and  
 the filling of the said & a new taken of the said & the said  
 to be sufficient to the said & the said & the castle  
 of the said the said & the said 1579

James R.

To the King's Hand for the Hand  
 of the said Board





personis with thame, to eate flesche als oft as they sall think expedient during this foirbodin tyme, fra the xxiiii day of Februar instant to the sevint day of Apryle nixtocum, without cryme, harme, payne, skayth, or dainger to be incurrit be thame in thair personis, landis, or guidis, nochtwithstanding ony our lawis, Actis of Parliament, or proclamacionis maid in the contrair, or ony panis contenit thairin; anent the quhilkis we dispens, be thir presentis, dischargeing all our juges and ministeris of our lawis of all calling, accusing, vnlawing, or onywyis proceeding aganis the saidis personis thairfoir, and of thair offices in that part. Gevin vnder our signet, and subscrivit be our said cousing and regent, at Halyrudehous, the xx day of Februar, and of our regne the tent yeir, 1578.

JAMES REGENT.

24. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to DAVID WEMYSS of Wemyss.

To send Archie Armstrong to Falkland. 25th April 1579.

TRAIST freind, we greit yow weill. Being moved with the mony and oft supplicationis of your self and vtheris nobilmen, baronis, and gentilmen heirtofoir burdynnit with the keiping of the pleges and brokin men retenit for gude ordour on the Bordouris, we haue at last concludit that sa mony as ar yit in handis sal be distributit and keipit in oure awin houssis and castellis: Quhairfoir it is oure will, and we command yow that ye caus convoy and put Archie Armstrang, sone to the Laird of Quhithach, now being in your custodie, with this our letter and warrand, to the captane, counstable, and keiperis of our castell of Falkland, and the said Archie being sufficientlie ressaut of your handis and the tikket of the ressauer, or a note takin thairvpoun. This our letter sal be to yow sufficient warrand. Subscriuit with our hand at our castell of Striuiling, the xxv day of Aprile 1579.

JAMES R.

A. HAY.

To our traist freind the Laird of Wester Wemys.



25. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to [THE SAME], requiring his attendance with his retainers at Holyroodhouse. 6th December 1582.

TRAIST freynd, we greit yow weill. Vnderstanding of sum gaddingis and assembleis of certane restles and vnquiet men in places ewische our persoun, lyklye to meane sum interpryis aganis the stait quhilk is present, to the appeirand danger of ws, our nobilitie and counsale resident with ws, for the bettir withstanding quhair of and disclosing of thair wicked purpois and intentioun, it is oure will, and we desire yow rycht effectuouslie, as ye tendir our seruice and obedience, that ye will not fail, vpoun the sycht heirof, to addres you to be at ws, heir, in Halieruidhous, with all convenient expeditioun, accompaneit with a gude nowmer of your honest freindis and seruandis, in thair maist fensabill and substantious maner, reddy to attend vpoun ws aucht or ten dayis, to the effect foirsaid, as ye will do ws rycht acceptabill and speciall seruice. This we commit yow to God. At Halieruidhous, the saxt of December 1582.

JAMES R.

26. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME, sending Alexander Young on a special errand. 7th May 1583.

RYCHT traist freind, we greit yow hertlie weill. We haue send oure seruitour, Alexander Young, for ane speciall erand of ouris to be communicat to yow, quhairin we desir yow firmlie to credite, and that be him we may vnderstand, and haue a pruf of your gudewill at this tyme (the occasioun sa craving it), as ye will do ws acceptable and gude plesoure, to be thankfullie rememberit quhen your erand may fall in our way. And sa, resting to your ansuer, committis yow to God. At Halyrudehous, the vii day of Maii 1583.

JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Laird of Wester Wemys.



27. KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE SAME. For loan of money.  
15th May 1583.

RICHT traist freind, we greit yow weill. We haue ressauid aduertisment frome our seruand, Alexander Young, quhome we directit vnto yow of befoir, how willing ye wer to satisfie our desir in that mater he wes directit for, and that ye promist to haue the siluer in reddynes agane his returning; bot sen our present furnissing can not suffer sic delay, we haue send ouer this beirar, Archibald Prymrois, comptroller clerk, to ressaue that siluer fra yow, and to deliuer to yow our Comptrolleris obligatioun for pament thairof, at the first day of October nixtocum, of the reddiest of the taxatioun assignit to him. Thus we commit yow to God. At Haliruidhous, the xv day of Maii 1583. JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Laird of Wester Wemys.

28. KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE SAME. For loan of money.  
21st May 1583.

RICHT traist freind, we greit yow hertlie weill. We directit this beirar vnto yow of befoir for the siluer quhilk ye promist vnto ws. Bot becaus ye deliuerit not that siluer to him, bot cravit ane delay quhill your cuming to Edinburgh, that ye mycht haue vnderstand our awin mynd thairanent, we haue of new directit him vnto yow to let yow vnderstand, like as we be thir presentis certefeis yow, that it wes be our awin special directioun, that that siluer wes borrowit fra yow: and thairfoir we require yow, maist effectuslie, that ye will not fail to deliuer the said siluer to this beirar, and ressaue fra him our Comptrolleris obligatioun for pament thairof, of the first and reddiest pament of the taxatioun. Or vtherways that ye will not fail to be at ws in Linlythgw, betuix and Friday at nycht, and bring the said siluer with



yow, quhair we sall declair to yow our awin mynd thairanent. Thus lūiking to haue our desir presentlie satisfeit, committis yow to God. At Haliruidhous, the xxi day of Maii 1583. JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Laird of Wester Wemys.

29. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME, asking him to choose arbiters to settle his controversy with Balmuto. 18th December 1583.

TRAIST freind, we greit yow weill. Being occupeit this moneth bygane vpoun some wechtie effaires of estate, quhairthroche we could not weill tak ordour for filling of the blank betuix yow and your partie, within the day to the quhilk the same wes prorogat be baithe your consentis, and thairby that the caussis of your variance remanis as yit vntane away, we haue thocht convenient to direct our seruand, Alexander Young, to desyir yow baithe to consent to the prorogatioun of the said blank to the day expressit in this vther wryting, quhilk we haue subscriuit and sent yow be him to be subscriuit be baithe your handis, in takin of your assent thairto. In the mein tyme, becaus it is vncertane to ws quhen we may spair that laisar quhilk the heiring and discussing of your particulariteis will require, we will desyir yow richt affectueuslie to be content that the mater may be tane vp amange your selfis be nominating and chesing of some weill affectit freindis to your quietnes, to meit with vtheris on your parteis syde, quhome we haue willit hin in lyk maner to chose on his behalf, be quhais gude meanis, baithe your differencis may be the mair quietlie componit, and we may haue the les ado, as we haue willit the beirar to insist with yow mair ɛrnstly in our name quhome ye may credite. Thus we commit yow to God. From Halyrudehous, this xviii day of December 1583. JAMES R.

To oure traist freind the Laird of Westir Wemys.





30. LICENCE by KING JAMES THE SIXTH to SIR JOHN WEMYSS, knight. To remain at home from the raid at Stirling. April 1584.

REX.

WE, be the tennour heirof, grantis and gevis licence to 'Johnne Wemys, apperand of Westir Wemys, knycht, his freindis, seruandis, and dependaris, to depart hame and remane at hame fra our present oist and army convenit at Striueling, for persute of our tratouris and rebellis, quhilkis laitlie sesit thame selffis within our castell and toun of Striueling, and detenit the same aganis ws and our authoritie, without pane, skayth, or dangeare to be incurrit be the said Johnne Wemys and his foirsaidis in thair bodiis, landis, gudis, or geir, be ony maner of way, nochtwithstanding our lait proclamatioun, or vtheris proclamationis, actis, or statutis maid in the contrair, quhairanent, and panis contenit thairin, we dispens be thir presentis, dischargeing all our iugeis and ministeris of our lawis of all proceeding aganis the said Johnne, his saidis freindis, seruandis, and dependaris for the caus foirsaid, and of thair offices in that part, be thir presentis. Gevin vnder our signet, and subscriuit with our hand at our castell of Striueling, the day of Apryle, and of our regnne the xvii yeir, 1584. JAMES R.

ARRAINE, C<sup>r</sup>. MONTROISS.

31. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk. To deliver up goods in Elcho. 17th July 1584.

REX.

LAIRD OF WEMYS, we greit yow weill. It is our will, and we command yow that ye, incontinent efter the sicht heirof, delyuer to our rycht traist cousing and counsallour, Johnne Erle of Montrois, our



thesaurer, or any in his name, bearer heirof, the haill guidis and geir quhilkis pertenit of befoir to vmquhile William, sumtyme Erle of Gowry, presentlie being in Elcho, according to the inuentar tane and maid thairof; to be intromettit with be him and transportit to our burgh of Perth, according to our vther warrand and directioun, as ye will ansuer to ws vpoun the contrary, quhairof this present salbe to yow a sufficient warrand. Subscryuit with our hand at Falkland, the xvii day of Julii 1584.

JAMES R.

S. J. C. COMPTROLLAR.      PETTYNWEM.

32. KING JAMES THE SIXTH, altering the ward of David Wemyss of that Ilk from Inverness to Blackness. February 1585.

REX.

WE, vnderstanding that our belouit Dauid Wemys of that Ilk, being chargeit be our vther letteris to fulfill certane heidis of a registrat contract betuix our richt traist cousing, the Erle Mershall, and him, as cautioner for our traist cousing, Alexander Lord Home, or failyeing thairof to enter his persoun in waird within our castell of Inuernes, quhilk charge of warding being myndit to obey, ay and quhill he haue satisfeit the saidis decreit and letteris, we ar trewlie informit that he, in the meane tyme, hes contracted ane grevous and dolorous disease in his body, quhairthrough he can nocht convenientlie travaill to his said appointed waird without a present hazard and danger of his lyffe; quhairfoir, and for vtheris gude considerationis moving ws, we haue alterit, and, be the tennour heirof, alteris his said warding place fra Inuernes to Blaknes, sa that he entering his persoun in our said castell of Blaknes, and remayingn thairin ay and quhill he haue satisfeit the saidis letteris, it salbe als sufficient as gif he enterit within Inuernes, provyding it be betuix and the day appointed to his warding be our saidis vtheris letteris, quhairanent this salbe to him a sufficient



dispensatioun and warrand. Subscryuit with our hand at Halyrud-  
hous, the day of Februar 1585.

JAMES R.

THYRLSTONE.

33. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to DAVID WEMYSS of Wemyss. To  
receive John Graham of Stobohill. 18th May 1587.

RYCHT traist freind, we greit yow weill. The lang trouble and vnquiet-  
nes of the thevis and brokin men inhabiting oure bordouris hes moved  
ws to repair thair in propir persoun, and to gett in plegeis for the maist  
disordourit sorte to be kepit in the incuntrey amangis the noblemen,  
barronis, and vthiris of best habilitie, seing our awne houssis ar not  
hable to keip sic a multitude as necessarlie for this gude occasioun mon  
be detenit; quhairfoir we require and command yow that ye ressaue  
in your custodie and keping Johnne Grahame of Stobohill, quhome  
presentlie we direct vnto yow, and retene him in your custodie and  
cumpany, vnletting him pas hame vpoun band, obligatioun, or ony  
maner of conditioun, quhill he be lauchfullie fred and releuit; alwayes  
ye neid not to keip him strait, becaus souirtie is found that he sall  
not eschaip. Swa we commit yow to God. Frome Halirudhous, the  
xviii day of Maii 1587.

JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Lard of Westir Wemys.

34. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME. To receive Archibald  
Armstrong, son to the Laird's John, in custody. 24th  
November 1587.

RIGHT traist freind, we greit yow weill. Off the plegis quhillkis we haif  
takin in for the gud rule of the brokin men inhabiting the cuntreis  
ewest our bordouris, we haif direct the beirare heirof, Archibald



Armstrang, sone to the Lardis Johnne, plege for the Armstrang of Mangertoun and Quhithauch, to remane in your custodie and cumpany quhill he be releuit; and thairfoir we require yow effectuslie, and commandis yow to ressaue him, and on na wayis to lett him pas hame vpoun promeis, band, obligatioun, or ony vther conditioun without our speciall warrand in write; alwayes it sall not neid that ye keip him in strait waird, becaus souirtie is ressaui of him be our command that he sall not eschaip or eschew, bot keip trew waird. Thus we commit yow to God. At Dalkeith, the xxiii day of Nouember 1587.

JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Lard of Wester Wemys.

35. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME. To receive John Armstrong, son of the Laird of Quhithauch. 2d March 1587.

TRAIST freind, we greit yow weill. Arche Armistrang, sone to the Lairdis Johnne, presentlie remaning with yow, being enterit plege for himself and certane vtheris of his branche, is appointit to be interchangeit with the berare heirof, namyt Johnne Armistrang, sone to the Lard of Quhithauch, quhome we haue presentlie directit vnto yow, desyring yow effectuslie to ressaue him in your hous and cumpany, causing him be ansuerit of meit, drink, and bedding, and suffering him na wayis to pas hame vpoun band, obligatioun, or ony vther maner of conditioun, quhill he be fred be ws; and he being enterit, that ye thaireftir put the said Arche Armistrang to libertie, and suffer him to pas hame at his pleasour. Thus for the present we commit yow to God. Frome Haliruidhous, the second day of Marche 1587.

JAMES R.

To our traist freind the Lard of Westir Wemys.





36. KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE SAME. Andrew Wood of Largo to fish for salmon in the Leven. 15th August 1588.

TRAIST freind, we greit you wele. Althocht it be prouidit be Act of Parliament that na salmond fischis be slayne in the watter of Leavin, betuix the first and latter Martimes, yit, vpoun certaine gude considerationis moving ws, we haue grantit libertie to our trusty and weilbelouit seruitour, Andro Wod of Largo, to caus fische the watter mouth of Leavin, and to sla salmound and vther fischis within his awin boundis thairof, in the said prohibit tyme, at his pleasour. It is thairfoir our will, and we effectuslie requeist and desyre you that ye, as watter baillie within the said boundis, be your self, your deputis and officiaris, desist and ceis fra all stop, truble, or impediment making to our said seruitour, or his seruandis and fischaris in his name, in fischeing of the said watter mouth of Leavin, in the foirsaid forbiddin tyme, nocht-withstanding of any act or consuetude in the contrarie, as ye will do ws acceptable pleasour and seruice, and vtherwayis ansuer to ws vpoun your obedience. Sa we commit you to God. Frome Edinburgh, the xv day of August 1588. JAMES R.

To our traist freind the Lard of Westir Wemys.

37. KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE SAME. To keep one of the pledges in sure custody. 23d January 1588.

TRAIST freind, we grete yow weill. It is our will, and we command yow that ye retene and kepe the plege quhilk wes committit to your custodie in sure firmance and captiuitie, vnlatting him to libertie vpoun band, obligatioun, or ony vther maner of conditioun without our speciall command thairto in write subscriuit be ws and our



Chancellair. Thus we committ yow to God. Frome Haliruidhous, the  
xxiii day of Januare 1588. JAMES R.

To our traist freind the Lard of Westir Wemys.

38. KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE SAME. The King's marriage.  
1st April 1589.

TRAIST freind, we greit yow hartlie weill. Mynding to haif heir a frequent and solempne assemblie of our nobilitie, barronis, and vtheris our estattis, vpoun the xxiiii day of Aprile instant, alsweill for resolu-tioun to be tane be thair aduise anent the mater of our mariage as for the quieting of this estate and diuerting of the appering danegers thretnid thairto, baith be domesticque and externall practises, it is thairfoir our will, and we desyre yow richt effectuouslie, that all excuses sett apairt, ye fail not to be at ws, the said day and place, preparit to assist ws with your best counsale and aduise in the premissis, as ye will testefie vnto ws your dewtifull affectioun to the weill of ws and this hail state, and thairin do ws richt acceptable and thankfull seruice. Thus we commit yow to God. At Halyrudhous, the first day off [Apr]ile 1589. JAMES R.

To our traist freind the Laird of Wester Wemys.

39. KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE SAME. To entertain the  
Danish Commissioners at Wemyss. 7th May 1590.

RICHT traist freind, we greit you hertly weill. We haif writtin to yow to your hous of Wemys for ressait of the Commissioners of Denmark, vpoun Monunday nixt at nycht, the xi day of this moneth, and, in cais of your absence, hes thocht gude to send this vther letter to yow to Elcho, desyrand yow effectuuslie, that ye will nocht fail without delay, all excuses sett apairt, to addres yow to be at Wemys



with all diligence efter the ressett heirop, and to treate and intertyen thame the best ye can that nycht, as ye luif the honour of ws and the cuntrie, and will do ws special plesour. Thus we commit you to God. At Edinburgh, the vii of Maii 1590. JAMES R.

To our traist freind the Lard of Wester Wemys.

40. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME. Meeting of the nobility before the Parliament. 29th March 1592.

RYCHT traist freind, we greit you hertlye weill. The desyre we haue alwayes careit to satisfie the commoun wische and expectatioun of oure weill affectit subiectis, and the present tyme and occasioun in this wickit and declyning aige, craving sic solide and gude ordour to be takin as may best settill and quyet oure estate, hes moyit ws now efter oure full and perfyte aige, to procleame a Parliament, quhilk, be Godis assistance, is to be haldin in the moneth of Maii nixtocum. In the meyntyme, thinking it convenient, that, in maters of sa great wecht and importançe, we proceid be the aduise and concurrens of sic of oure nobilitie and best affected subiectis as ar knawin to cary gretest guidwill to the furtherance of sa necessar and godlie a work, we haue maid choyse, amangis vtheris, of yow, being aquent with your gude dispositioun, quhom we haue takin occasioun heirbye to desyre in maist ernist maner (all excuses set apart) to addres yourself toward ws at Edinburgh, the xx day of Aprile nixt approcheing, instructed with your sound aduise and best opinioun, to be interponit alsweill in sic thingis as ar meit to be proponit and enactit in Parliament, as lykewise in sum further resolutionis then requisite to be takin in sic maters as sulbe particularlie oppynnit vp at your cuming to that assemble, at quhat tyme ye sall beare witnes of oure sinceritie and gude meanyng to haue the lawes and ordinances sett downe, effectuell and with dew regard, inviolablie kept, and of oure earnyst cair in omitting na part with your



ayde and the rest of oure estates to haue that lang expectit and wischit executioun to follow. Thus louking assuritie for your presens in keping precisle that dyett, as ye will kyth thairby your zeale and affectioun to the advancement of Godis glorie, preseruatioun of oure croun and estate, with the setling of the samyn, to the great quiet and publict benefite of your natiue cuntrie, we commit yow to Godis protectioun. From Halyrudhous, the xxix day of Marche 1592.

JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Larde of Wester Wemys.

41. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME. Expedition to the Borders. 27th September 1592.

RIGHT traist freind, we greit yow hertlie weill. As the gentill vsage and lenitie, schawine at all tymes heirtofoir toward our subiectis, hes maid thame to leif vndir that cairles securitie that our sindrie proclamationis haue nocht bene sa dewlie respected as the importance and necessitie of the erandis requirit, sa hes it gevin ws occasioun to resolue a cours quhairby we may receave better obedience, quhairof we haue thoct meit heirby to mak yow aduerteist, and that vpone sum occasionis contened at lenth in our publict proclamationis, quhilk will cum to your knowlege, we haue fund it expedient to continew the last appointed raid to the tent day of October nixt to cum; to quhilk tyme we will desire yow in maist earnest maner to prepair your self, and nocht to fail to meit and accompany ws, as ye salbe directed; as thairby ye will kyth your zeale and affectioun toward our croun and seruice, besydes the reporting of our speciall thankes, and concurre with your help to the purgeing and conquischeing in a maner of sic boundis, specialie of Tiuidaill, as hes schaiken of thair dewitie and allegeance towardis ws, being infected with the repair and hant of our notorious rebellis, and, in that respect, to be repute na les culpable





With trusty and well becomit bes-gut you Leathis well. The  
kind entertainment and favorable comfession you give shall be to  
Mistress Marget our servant and some of Leath's proceeding with  
of your kind will be any charge giving you transient of disorder ma-  
rejoice at our kind they thankie giving for the present abiding in occasion  
at you may have to put our friends to a certain point for the  
affairs you shall be assistable to your confound with talking the  
by Leath's reports and testimony but afterwards in the for said for  
good willing shall be met but with a heavy distressful and penitenti-  
ous. For since the beginning of Leath's letters I have sent to you  
the well give you Leath's thankie giving, offering you that shall be  
we may put this matter to a point, the present the we intend you shall  
shall practice the you acceptable please you Leath send to the.  
And thus we comit you to the Blessing. At your command

Next Day of November 1592.

To our right trusty and well becomit

The Lord of Leath

Anna R.



nor thame selfis and equalie to be persewit. Thus luiking assuredlie for your conformitie (all excuses set apart) as euir ye will be partaker of our gudewill and fauour, we commit yow to Godis protectioun. From Dalkeith, the xxvii day of September 1592. JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Laird of Wester Wemys.

42. ANNA, Queen of King James the Sixth, to THE SAME.

His courtesy to Mistress Margaret, her dame of honour.

9th November 1592.

RIGHT trusty and well belouit, we greit yow heartlie well. The guid intertennement and fauorable courtesie ye haue shawne to Maistres Margret, our servant and dame of honnour, proceeding rather of your guid will then any chairage gevin yow thairanent, hes deservit na lesse at our handis then thankis geving for the present, abyding sic occasion as ye may haue to put our freindship to a certaine pruiſ, quhilk, we assure yow, sall be answerable to yowrs, confirmed now towardis ws by sindrie rapportis and testimonies, but speciallie in the forsaid, quhilk, God willing, sall never be met but with a verry gretfull and princelie mynd. Therfor, since willinglie ye haue hitherto sustenit this burthen, we will give yow heartlie thankis thairfor; assuring yow that, how sone we may put this mater to a point, quhilk presentlie we intend, ye sall know particularlie how acceptable pleasour ye haue done to ws. And thus, we committ yow to the Eternell. At Halyrudhous, the nynt day of Nouember 1592. ANNA R.

To our richt trusty and wellbelouit, the Laird of Wemis.

43. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME. To attend the Prince's baptism, and to send provisions. 3d August 1594.

RIGHT traist freind, we greit you hairtlie weill. The incertaintie of the arrivall of the remanent foreyne ambassadouris and sum vther



speciall occasionis, hes constranit ws to prorogat the tyme of our derrest sonis baptisme to Sunday, the xviii of August instant; quhairof ue haue thocht necessar to aduerteis yow, and thairwithall effectuuslie to desyre yow that ye will nocht fail to be with us vpoun the fyftene day of the said moneth at the farthest, and that ye will haist in sic quick stuf as ye may haue in redynes, and may spair, to the support of the chargis, to Halirudhous, betuix and the vii or viii day of the said moneth; and vennysoun and wyldfoull as it may be haid calloure about the day of the solempnitie, evin as ye will gif us a pruf of your affectioun and guidwill; and always let us haue your ansuer that ue be nocht disappointit; and sa committis yow to God. At Striuiling, the thrid day of August 1594. JAMES R.

Yie sie now thai ar alreddy cum vpoun quhome the chargeis ar to be maid. We know that vennysoun and wyldfoull are nocht frequent in that cuntrie, albeit thai be expressit in this our letter as we wrait to the Hielandis.

To oure richt traist freind the Lard of Wester Wemys.

44. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME. To receive Andrew Johnstone, son of Cristy of Milnbank. 21st January 1594.

TRAISt freind, we grite yow weill. We haue, for the better rewle to be keipit be the disorderit personis, inhabitantis of our bordouris, in tyme cuming, taikin certane plegeis, quhilkis, according to our Act of Parliament, is thocht meit to be committit to remane with certane nobillmen, barronis, and vthiris in the incuntrie, seing our awin houssis ar not aibill to keip sic a multitude as necesserlie, for this guid occasion, mon be detenit. Quhairfoir thir presentis salbe to desyir yow effectuouslie to ressaue in your hous Andro Johnnestoun, sone to Cristie of Mylnbank, plege for the branche of Mylnbank, and caus



ansuer him of meit, drink, and bedding, quhill he be fred be our speciall letter to be direct to yow, subscriuit be ws, and sevin of our Previe Counsall, our Chancellair and Justice-clerke being alwayes twa of that nowmer. It is not necessar that ye be cairfull of his keiping, becaus he hes found souirtie not to eshew: bot ye sall not grant him licence nor libertie to pas hame, as ye wald eshew the pane of twa thousand pundis, prescryuit in our Act of Parliament maid heiranent. Thus, for the present, we committ yow to God. Frome Haliruidhous, the xxj day of Januar 1594.

JAMES R.

To our traist freind the Lard of Westir Wemys.

45. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME. To receive into his custody Jock Johnstone of Brumell. 31st January 1595.

RIGHT traist freind, we grete yow weill. The plegeis brocht in for the gude rule of the Bordouris mon be kept be the nobilmen, barronis, and gentlemen of the incuntrie, quhomto they ar directit, according to the order appointit be the Act of Parliament maid thairanent. Thairfore we require yow rycht effectuuslie, that ye ressaue Jok Johnnstoun of Brumell, plege for the gang of Brumell and Elscheschelis, and keip him in fre ward, and cause ansuer of meit, drink, and bedding, ay and quhill he be fred and releuit be our speciall lettir, subscriuit with our hand and be sevin of oure Counsale; and that ye nawyse grant him licence nor libertie to pas hame, as ye will eschew the incurring of the pane of twa thowsand pundis prescriuit be the said Act of Parliament. Thus we commit yow to God. At Halyrudehouse, the last day of Januar 1595.

JAMES R.

To oure richt traist freind the Laird of Wester Wemys.





46. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to SIR JOHN WEMYSS of that Ilk.

To receive into his custody Jock Johnstone of Brumell, and to certify the Council if he escaped. 30th October 1597.

RICHT traist freind, we grete you wele. The pledgeis now enterit for gude reule of the Bordouris mon be keipit be the baronis and vthiris quhometo thay ar directit, according to the ordour prescriuit be our Act of Parliament. Thairfoir we require you richt effectuaslie to ressaue in your house and keeping Jok Johnnstoun of Brumell, plege for the gang of Brumell, and caus ansuer him of meit, drink, and bedding, quhill he be fred and releuit be oure speciall letter, subscriuit be ws and fyve of our Preuey Counsale; and that ye suffir him nocht to departe or pas hame, be your ouersicht, licence, or consent, as ye will eshew the pane of tua thowsand pundis, contenit in our Act of Parliament maid thairanent. Bot incais he eshaip hame or departe oute of your cumpany, by your witting, that ye aduerteis ws and our Counsale thairof be write, within xxiiii houris eftir his said eshewing, vthirwayes ye will incur the said pane. Thus we committ you to God. At Lynlythqw, the penult day of October 1597. JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Lard of Wester Wemys.

47. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME. To receive Willie of Greenside. 30th December 1598.

TRAIST freind, we greit yow weill. Wanting houssis of our awin to keip the pleges enterit to ws for the quietnes of our West Marche, we ar forceit to have recours to the remeid provydit thairto be our Estaittis at this lait conventioun; and, accordinglie, man will and desyre yow that vpoun sycht heirof, all excusis set asyde, ye faille nocht to ressaue Willie of Grenesyde plege for the gang of Myreheid and Lokerby, keip and deteine him in sure firmance, vnsuffering him to



escape or to retire him hame without our speciall warrand had and obtenit thairto, vndir the panis contenit in our actis, and as ye wilbe anserable to ws besydis vpoun your failyie at your further charge and perrell. Thus we commit yow to God. Frome Halyrudhous, this penult of December 1598.

JAMES R.

To our traist freind the Laird of Wester Wemyes.

48. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME, requesting the loan of a hackney for the use of the French Ambassador. 9th July 1599.

RIGHT traist freind, we greit you hertlie wele. The Frenche ambassadour being to viseit our burgh of Perth the morne or vthermorne, we haue thocht guid, effectusly to requeist and desir you, that ye failt nocht, as ye respect our honnour, to send heir, to Falkland, with a seruand of your awne, ane of your fynest hacquenays, with the fynest sadle and furnitour yee haue, betuixt and the morne at evin, or Twysday in the morning at the fardest, for the monting of the said ambassadour or sum gentilman of his tryne in that iornay; quhilk your hors salbe returnit agane to you with your awne seruand. And swa lippyning this assuredlie to you, as ye will mereit our thankis, we commit you to God. From Falkland, this ix of Julii 1599.

JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Laird of Wester Weymis.

49. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE SAME, repeating his request for the loan of a hackney for the French Ambassador. 13th July 1599.

RIGHT traist freind, we greit you hertlie wele. In our former letter we desyrit you, as ye respected our honnour, to send ws ane of your



fynest hacquenays, with the fynest sadle and furnitour ye haue, for the monting of the Frenche ambassadour, or sum gentilman of his tryne, in his progres toward our burgh of Perth, quhilk ye haue vili- pendit; and thairfoir, as of befoir, we haue thocht guid to will and desyr you that ye failt nocht (all excuissis set apairt) to send ws the same hacquenay the morne, or vther morne at the fardest, with a seruand of your awne, quha sall returne him agane to you; and swa lippynning this assuredlie to you, as ye will report our hertlie thankis, and will eschew our forder wraith, we commit you to God. From Falkland, this xiii of Julii 1599. JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Laird of Wester Weymis.

50. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to SIR JOHN WEMYSS of Wemyss, knight. Setting nets in the water of Leven. 15th August 1599.

RICHT traist freind, we greit you hertlie wele. Vnderstanding that thair is yeirlie ane lax nett sett within the mouth of the water of Levin, ower the quhilk ye ar baillie, quhilk is expreslie contrair the tennour of our Actis of Parliament, we haue thairfoir thocht guid effectuusly to requeist and desire yow that ye failt not to suffer and permit nane to lay or sett thair nettis, fra this day furth, as our said Act of Parliament prescryuis, becaus it is ane great hinder and preiudice to our commounwele and puir lieges, in taking of the baggit fische within the same water efter the said day, notwithstanding of any warrand or desir gevin or to be gevin to that effect to you, as ye will do ws guid plesour. Swa we commit you to God. From Falkland, the xv day of August 1599. JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind S[chir] Johnne Weymis of that Ilk, knycht.



51. KING JAMES THE SIXTH TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BARONS  
OF THE SHERIFFDOM OF FIFE. To meet in a Convention at  
Perth. 18th January 1600.

RICT traist freindis, we greit yow hartlie weill. Having appointit ane conventioun the tent day of December last, and, thairin declairit to sa mony of our estaittis as wer present, quhat deficulties we war redactit to, for laik of moyane to sustene the necessar burdingis appertening to our honour and the suirtie and weill of the cuntrie, and finding euerie ane of thame cairfullie disposit, not onlie at thair vttermost to supplie our estait, bot to excogitat all gude meanis, quhairby the samin may be effectuat, lyk as thai all consentit in ane voce maist willinglie to our help, as ane act thairvpoun beiris, bot becaus they had maid lang tarie, and of our selff, we thocht a mair frequent nwmer of our nobilitie and vtheris of all rankis necessar, that, with the better deliberatioun and grieter solempnitie, the forme and maner thairof mycht be set down, we haif appointit a mair frequent conventioun to be at Perth, the xxvii day of Marche nixtocum, that a dew consideratioun may be takin with the present estait of our patrimony, casualites and vtheris rentis belonging to our croun, and the administratioun thairof, and how far the samin may extend in defraying of our necessar chargis, and be quhat menis the defectis thairof may be repairit be the volunter benevolence of our loving subiectis. For since we haue concludit never heireftir not onlie to sute ony taxatioun, bot althocht our peple wald willinglie yeild to any sic burdingis as mycht be preiudiciall to thair libertie, or carry ony schaw of tyrranny on our part till the posteritie, we ar determinat never to permit the memorie of any sic deiling to rest our thair heidis, bot as a loving prince and father of our people, to require at all our subiectis handis, that as our office is necessar amangis thame, and our necessitie in ane part is causit be our over grit liberalitie, quhairof the





benefite hes redoundit for the maist to our subiectis awin particularis, sa sould they find out the maist easie way how the necessar chargis belanging to our honour and the weill of the cuntrie, quhilk our proper rentis are not abill to defray, or gif not in haill, at least in sum measour, may be helpit, considering that our burdingis not onlie ar causit be a number of bairnes quhairwith God hes blissit ws, bot our future expectatioun incessis our chargeis in sic effairis as hes not fallin in mony our predicessouris heirtofoir, quhilk, nather with our honour nor the libertie of the cuntrie, can be neglectit. And least ye, as commissioner chosin for the small baronis within that schirefdome, suld cum vnresoluit to our said Conventioun, we haif thoct guid to direct heirwith to yow ane memoriall of the particularis quhairwith we ar straitit, remitting to your and thair wisdomes, gif ony of thame may, with the suirtie of the cuntrie and our honour, be left vndone, not doubting of the benevolence of our loving subiectis to find out sum gude mene how thir deficulties may be helpit, quhilkis, being anes repairit, will not bring any burding vpon the cuntrie in our tyme agane. Swa, willing and desyring yow that ye fail not, all excuissis sett apairt, to repair to our said Conventatioun, instructit with your best aduise and opinioun in the premissis, as ye will kythe your dewtifull affectioun toward our honour and seruice, we commit yow to God. From Halirudhous, this xviii of Januar 1600. JAMES R.

To our richt traist freindis the Commissioneris for the Baronis within the Schirefdome of Fyffe.

52. JOHN, THIRD EARL OF MONTROSE, chancellor of Scotland, to SIR JOHN WEMYSS. To attend a meeting of the Council at Edinburgh. 8th May 1600.

TRAISt freindis, eftiroure hairtlie commendationis. Thair is a meiting of the Counsale with some Commissioneris of the Estaittis appointed to



Fryday, the sextene of this instant, for aduising, resoning, and conferring vpoun some materis quhilkis ar to be treated vpoun at this nixt conventioun of the Estaittis, quhairwith ye salbe particularlie acquainted at your comeing : thairfore, thir presentis ar to desyre yow or ony ane of yow that ye fail not, all excuissis sett asyde, to be heir vpoun Thurisday, the fyftene of this instant, at evin, that ye may be in reddynes to convene and meit with the Counsale vpoun the morne thaireftir, for geving of your auise and opinioun in sic materis as ar onlie to be proponit and reasoned vpoun at this meting, the finall determinatioun quhairof wilbe remited to the Estaittis. Sue lukeing assuiradlie for your comeing, as ye will do his Maiestie gude seruice and ws acceptabill pleasour, we commit yow to God. Frome Halyruidhouse, the aucht day of Maii 1600.

MONTRIOISS.

To my richt traist freindis the Lairdis of Weymis and Balcomie, or ony ane of thame, Commissioners of Fyffe.

53. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to SIR JOHN WEMYSS of that Ilk.

The Cots of Elcho. 1st February 1601.

SCHIR Jone Weymis off that Ilk. Forsamikill as we ar informit thatt our thesawrar, quietlie, by our knavlege, hes procurit ane lettir of presentatione, presenting as immediat tennent to yow of the tuentie foure akiris of land callit the Cottis of Elcho, pertening to Hew Moncreif, brother jernane to William Moncreif of that Ilk, and being att our presentatione through the foirfaltrie of the said Hew, through his being artt and partt off the horribill tressone conspyrit aganis ws be wmqhill Johnne, sumtyme Erle of Gowrie, albeit it be trew thatt we haif disponit the sam to Schir Johnne Grahame off Orquhill; thairfoir it is our will, and we desyre yow thatt ye in nawayis admit nor ressaif the said as immediat tennent to yow of the saidis landis, nor yit gif him infestment of the samin; and this salbe



ane sufficient warrand for yow to this effectt, nochtwithstanding off quhatsumevir presentatione, warrand, or command direct or to be direct in the contrar heiroff. Subscryvit be ws at Halierudhous, the first day of Februar 1601 yeiris.

JAMES R.

54. LICENCE by KING JAMES THE SIXTH tō SIR JOHN WEMYSS of that ilk, to hunt in the Craigs of Moncrieff, etc. 1601.

REX.

WE, be the tennour heiroff, gevis and grantis licence to our louit Schir Johnne Weymis of that ilk, to hunt at his plesour in the partis of the Cragis of Mu[n]creiff, Malar, Drone, and Bathyok, without ony pane, danger, or skayth to be incurrit be him, in his bodie, landis, guidis, or geir, nochtwithstanding of quhatsumeuer our proclamationis maid in the contrair, quhairanentis, and all panis contenit thairintill, we dispens be thir presentis, dischargeing all and sundrie our iudgis and ministeris of our lawis of all calling, accusing, trubling, or molesting of the said Schir Johnne thairfoir, dischargeing thame and everie ane of [thame] thairoff and of thair offices in that part. Gevin vnder our signet, and subscriuit with our hand at the day of 1601.

JAMES R.

55. [SIR JOHN WEMYSS of that ilk] to KING JAMES THE SIXTH. Affairs of the Earl of Murray. [Draft.] Circa 1602.

SIRE,—Iff it may pleas yowr Maiestie, hering of the cair yowr Maiestie hes to sie my Lord off Murray's estait sattlit, in his priuat effairis alsweill as in his feid, for the quhilk albeit thair be nain heir can recompence yowr Heines, yeit I howp that God, quha hes ewer preseruit yowr Maiestie, sall give yow thankis for the sam. Sire, I heir his freindis, be yowr Maiesteis aduyse, ar to releiue sum off his land att this tyme, quhair he may haue graitest gain vith bestowing leist



siluer. Heirfoir itt vill pleis your Hienes knaw, that I haue twell thowsand markis vpon thes landis in Fyffe for his mariege, quhilk var meiter to be in his avin handis than in any manis else; and iff yowr Maiestie and his freindis can find it his veill to do for the sam, yowr Maiestie sall tak vpon yow to do als mekill in that as I may, vithowt my grait los, quhilk I assur my selff, your Heines vill nocht craiue: quhat soewer your Heines dois in this erand, itt vill pleis yow acquent yowr seruand, Maister Jhone Murray, vith the sam, and according to yowr Maiesteis directione I sall do heirin. Swa feiring to

to yowr Hienes, only craiving yowr Maiesteis pardowne for my presumptiowne in your Maiestie vitht my lynis, vissing the Eternal God to preserue yowr Heines, boithe in sawll and body, so, in all humilite, kissing your Heines handis, I rest,

Your maist humbill and obedient subiect.

Elcho, the daye off

[Dorso :] To the King.

56. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to [SIR JOHN WEMYSS of that ilk].

The Earl of Murray. 17th March 1603.

RICHT traist freind, we great you hertlie wele. In respect our cousing, the Erll of Ergyle, and the rest of the Erll of Murrayes speciall freindis, wer not at this tyme present with ws heir, we haue continewit the handilling of that mater of his mariage and vther his effaires vnto the xxv day of Marche instant, quhair of we haue thoct gude to gif you aduerteisment, and effectuusly to requeist and desire you, that ye fail not (all excuissis set a pairt) to be at ws in Sterling, the said day preceisly; quhair we mynd, God willing, to be for the tyme, to gif your best [advise] and opinioun in the putting of our said cousing, the Erll of Murrayes effaires to sum point, as ye will do ws acceptable guid pleasour and seruice. Sua, resting assured of your keping that day





preceisly, we commit you to God. From Halyruidhouse, the xvii day of Marche 1603.

JAMES R.

57. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to SIR JOHN WEMYSS. To accompany the Queen to London. 10th April 1603.

RIGHT traist freind, we great yow hertlie wele. Seing our people hear langis na lesse for our dearest bedfollow, the Quene, and our childrene then they did for ourselff, and that it wes not your fortoun to accompany ws in this our wayage, in respect of the schortnes of tyme and your not preparatioun, we haue maid chois of yow for the convoy to Londoun of our said dearest bedfollow the Quene, quhom we haue appointed to begin hir jounay betuixt and the first day of Maii nixtocum; and thairfoir will effectuously requeist and desire yow to prepair and adresse yourselff, in your cumliest maner, to convoy, accompany, and attend vpoun our said dearest bedfollow in that hir hail jounay to Londoun; and for the same effect to be in readynes vpoun hir aduertisement betuixt and the day foirsaid; as ye tender our honnour and the honnour of the cuntrey with our speciall plesour and seruice. Sua we commit yow to God. From Newcastle, this tent of Aprile 1603.

JAMES R.

To our richt traist freind the Laird of Weymis Wester.

58. ANNE, Queen of King James the Sixth, to SIR JOHN WEMYSS, requesting him to attend her to London.

Halyruidhous, 25 of Apryle 1603.

RIGHT trustie and weilbeloued, we greit yow hairtlye weille. We trust that yow ar alreddie sufficientlye informed be his Maistes letters off his will and pleasoure concerning our convoy towards London and your preparatione for that jornay. So that off late, having received advertisement agane frome his Maieste, we ar off our selfs at this



tyme to renewe his requeist, and impert vnto yow our awen desyres, as lykwyse to certefie yow off the tyme of our departing frome Edinburgh, quhilk preceisly we do intend to keipe the 13 day of Maye. Therefore we requeist yow maist earnestlye to prepaire yourself aganst that tyme that, by your attendance and convoy, efter your best and maist possible maner, we may be the maire deulye honoured, and through your cumpanye your countrye, be straingers, commended; quhairin ye sall do to ws maiste agreeable pleasowre. And so we committ yow to God.

To our trest freinde the Lairde  
off Waester Weymes.



59. LICENCE by THE LORDS OF COUNCIL to SIR JOHN WEYMSS  
to eat flesh during Lent. 13th November 1610.

THE Lordis of Secreit Counsaill vnderstanding that Sir Johnne Weymis of that Ilk is subiect to diuers diseassis and infirmiteis, sua that his complexioun aggreis nocht to feid vpoun fishe; thairfoir the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill gevis and grantis licence to the said Sir Johnne to eit fleshe vpoun Wednesday, Fryday, and Satterday, and in tyme of Lent, during his lyve tyme, without pain or dangeir to be incurrit be him nocht-withstanding whatsomeuir actis or statutis maid in the contrar; quhairanent the saidis Lordis dispensis be thir presentis. At Edinburgh, the xiii day of Nouember 1610.

SANCTANDROIS.

WIGTOUN.

MAR.

BURGHLEY.

PERTHE.

JO. PRESTOUN.

ABERCORNE.

S. T. HAMILTON.

BLANTYIR.



60. LETTER by KING JAMES THE SIXTH to THE LAIRD OF WEMYSS.  
To attend the Assembly of Perth. 8th July 1618.

JAMES R.

TRUSTIE and welbeloued, wee greete yow well. Whereas certeyne articles were proposed by vs to be concluded by the church there, at our late being in that our kingdome, which at the last assemblie holden at St. Andrewes were deferred to the nexte ensewing, wee haue thoughte good to calle an assemblie nationall of the Church in those partes, and haue appointed them to conuene at Perth, the 25th of August nexte, to the effecte those articles may be past in constitution ecclesiasticall, at which wee haue made speciall choise of yow to be presente, that yee may assiste and funder our good and royall intencion, so far as lyes in yow. Therefor wee moste earnestlie desire yow to keepe the said time and place, and attende our Commissioner whome wee shall appointe to keepe the said assemblie, by whome yee shall more particularlie vnderstande what is our pleasour. And this assuring our selfe that yee will not fayle to do, as yee wolde merite the continuance of our fauour, wee bid yow farewell. Giuen at our Castle of Windesor, the viii<sup>th</sup> of Julie 1618.

To our trustie and welbeloued the Laird of Weemes.

61. KING CHARLES THE FIRST to SIR JOHN WEMYSS. Offering him  
a knight baronetcy. 24th March 1626.



TRUSTY and welbeloued, wee greete yow well. Hauing determined that the creation of knight barronets should proceed according as our



Charles

Sheweth and well knowne wherbye your grace: Havinge determined that  
the creation of Kinges baronies should proceed accordinge as our late deare -  
father moste advyse of grt counsaile had agreed upon, & thowge all the  
gentles of that Realme had warninge therof by publicke proclamatio  
yet the same pleased in regard of the reputation of your grace to take more  
particular notice of you, and did passe a Signatur of the said Signatur in  
your name wherewith the thought our favour wold have beene acceptable unto  
you Therfor the said parties are to require you to passe the said Signatur  
and to performe the like conditions as others do, or otherwise do not con-  
plaine hereafter of anye proceedinge of others wherewith will be satisfied  
provident that by the embracinge of the said Signatur they be carefull to  
forge the same as a work as they be bound by othe, and as it is a myght  
poynt to a forgerie title, so woe will befall them if it accordynge thereto  
willinge you to certifie that your resolution herein wold be diligent and  
William Chyngandier. Secretarie who wold be requaunt to the signatur wher  
did you forswore. At Whitehall the 24 of Marchy 1626,

To our kynge and well knowne  
5<sup>th</sup> John Weems of this countie.





late deare father, with aduise of his Counsell, had agreed vpon, though all the gentrie of that our kingdome had warning thereof by publict proclamation, yet wee were pleased in regard of the reputation of your house to tak more particuler notice of yow, and did passe a signator of the said honour in your name, wherein wee thought our fauour wold haue been acceptable vnto yow. Therfor these presentes are to require yow to passe the said signatour and to performe the like conditiones as others do, or otherwise do not complaine hereafter of the precedencie of others, whom wee will the rather preferre, that by the imbracing of the said dignitie they be carefull to further so worthie a work as doth depend therevpon. And as it is a next stepp to a further title, so wee will esteeme of it accordinglie. Thus willing yow to certifie bak your resolution herein with all diligence to Sir William Alexander, our secretarie, who will acquaint vs therewith, wee bid yow farewell. Whitehall, the 24 of March 1626.

To our trustie and welbeloued Sir John Weyms of that Ilk, knight.

62. KING CHARLES THE FIRST to JOHN LORD WEMYSS. To attend the Parliament. 14th July 1628.

CAROLUS, Dei gratia Magne Britannie, Francie et Hibernie Rex, fideique defensor, predilecto nostro consanguineo, Joanni Domino Weymes, etc. Quia ordinavimus Parliamentum nostrum tenendum apud Edinburgh, et inchoandum die Lune, decimo quinto die mensis Septembris proxime futuri, cum continuatione dierum, vobis precipimus et mandamus quatenus sitis ibidem, dictis die et loco, in dicto nostro Parlamento, vnacum aliis regni nostri prelati, proceribus, et burgorum commissionariis, qui tunc ibidem propter hoc intererint congregati, ad tractandum, concordandum, subeundum et determinandum ea que in dicto nostro Parlamento, pro vtilitate dicti regni nostri et



reipublice tractanda fuerint, concordanda, subeunda et determinanda ;  
 et hoc, sub pena que competit in hac parte, nullatenus omittatis.  
 Datum sub testimonio nostri magni sigilli, apud Halirudhous, decimo  
 quarto die mensis Julii, et anno Regni nostri quarto, 1628.

Predilecto nostro consanguineo Joanni Domino Weymes pro  
 Parlamento.

63. THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL to JOHN LORD WEMYSS. The  
 King's Coronation. 21st July 1628.

AFTER oure verrie hartlie commendatiounes to your good Lordship:  
 Whairas the Kingis Maiestie, oure most sacreid souerane, is resolued  
 verrie schortlie to honnour this his ancient kingdome with his royall  
 presence, alsweill for receaveing of his crowne, as for halding of ane  
 Parleament, quhilk is proclaimed to be haldin at Edinburgh, and to  
 begin, God willing, vpoun the fyftene day of September nixt, with  
 continewatioun of dayis; at the quhilkis solempnities his maiestie  
 lookis, and is assured, that the nobilitie of this kingdome, out of thair  
 dewtifull respect to his Maiesties obedience, and to the honnour and  
 credit of the countrie, will give thair presence and assistance; and  
 thairfoir, according to his Maiesties directioun sent vnto ws in this  
 mater, these ar to requeist and desyre your good Lordship to prepar  
 your self, and to be in reddines to keip the apointed tyme of the  
 Parleament, in that statlie and decent forme, with your scarlett rob,  
 as beseemeth the dignitie of suche ane actioun. And becaus the day  
 of the coronatioun will be some few dayis afoir the Parleament (quhairof  
 yow sall resaue new adverteisment by letter), yow sall thairfoir  
 prepar yourself to assist that honorabill actioun (quhilk is the first  
 of that kynd quhilk hes occurred in this kingdome within the memorie  
 of man), with your said scarlett rob. And nowayis doubting that yow



will be wanting in ony thing quhilk to your dewtie in so important a bissines, so neirlie concernyng his Maiestie in honnour and estait belongeth, we committ your Lordship to God. Frome Halyrudhous, the twentie ane day of Julii 1628.

Your Lordships verrie assured good freindis,

MAR.	J. ERSKYNE.
SANCTANDREWS.	MELUILL.
WINTOUN.	HAMILTON.
SEAFORT.	S <sup>r</sup> J. SCOTTISTARVETT.
LORNE.	

To oure verie honnourable good Lord the Lord Weymes.

64. COMMISSION by KING CHARLES THE FIRST to JOHN LORD WEMYSS and ROBERT LORD BURLEY, to apprehend Humphrey Calbreath and others for the murder of Sir John Wemyss in Ireland. 23d August [1628].

CHARLES R.

WHEREAS wee are certeynly informed that Humfry Calbreath, William Calbreath, William Cockburne, James Forton, William Hodge, and Dudly MacCabe, beeing conuicted of the murther of Sir John Weemes in Ireland, haue for their owne safety fledd into our kingdome of Scotland, where they liue as it were in contempt of justice and our lawes. Wee, therefore, for the more exact punishment of such heynous murthers, and withall by this president beeing willing to deterre others from daring in this kind in hope to elude the hand of justice by shifting the place where the fact was done, haue thought fitt to will and require you carefully to search and apprehend the said Humfry Calbreath, William Calbreath, William Cockburne, James Forton, William Hodge, and Dudly M<sup>c</sup>Cabe, where euer you can find



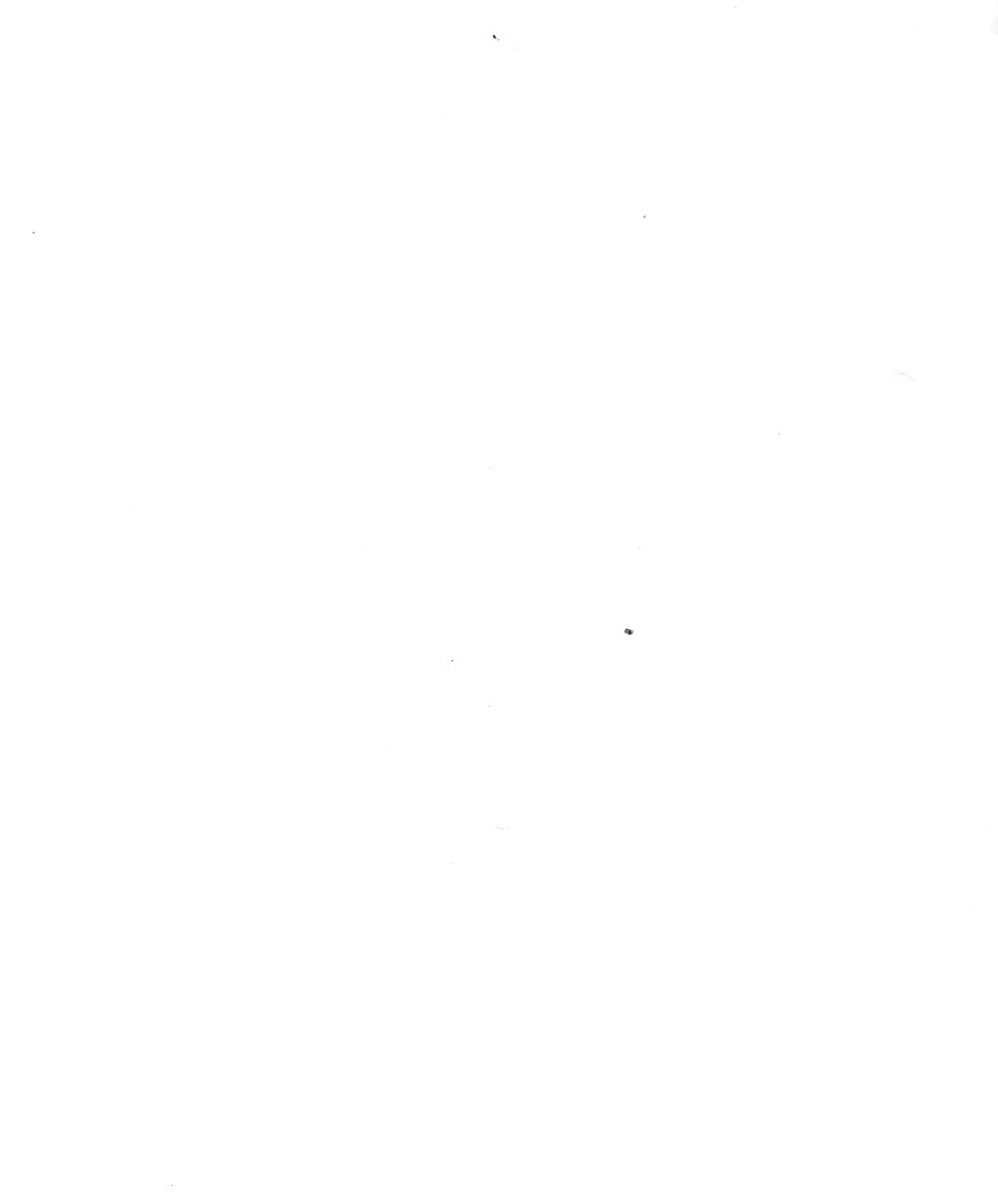
them, within our kingdome of Scotland, and with all conuenient diligence to putt them in the power of justice where the murther was committed. Wherein, as these presents shal bee your warrant, so wee require and command all our officers in that kingdome to assist you, if need bee, as they will answeere the contrary. Giuen vnder our signett at Southwick, the three and twentieth day of August in the fowrth yeare of our raigne.

To our right trusty and welbeloued John Lord Weemes, Viscount of Elchou, Robert Lord Burley, and to any other our officers whom it may concerne in our kingdome of Scotland.

65. THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL to JOHN LORD WEMYSS.

Exportation of victual. 17th January 1629.

AFTER oure very hartly commendationes: Wheras, at a meiting of the nobilitie, counsall, and commissioners for the small barones and burrowes, in the moneth of Appryle 1626, it wes agreit that the exportatione of victuale suld be permitted till the pryces thair of come to the sowmes following; to witt, the boll of quheit to fourtene merkis, the boll of beir to ellevine merkis, and meale and aittis to aucht merkis, and that, after that tyme, thair suld be no exportatione at all. And now the commissioners of the burrowis, alledging that the pryces of the victuale forsaid ar rissin above the sowmes allowed for the exportatione, thay have thairfor cravit that thair may be a restraint of further exportatione of the samen. And the counsall being loth to proceid raschlie in a mater of that kynd, till thay be trewlie informit how the pryces of the said victuale rewlis in such partis of the countrie quhair the exportation is maist vsuale, these are thairfor to request and desyre yow to informe your selff trewly and sufficiently of the pryces of the said victuale within the bounds quhair ye beir office,





and send in a formall report thair of to his Maiesties counsell, vpon the sevint day of Februar next, to the intent that ordour may be teane for the restraint acordinglie. And sua we commit yow to God. Frome Halirudhous, the sevintene day of Januar 1629.

Your verie good freinds,

MAR.	ARCH. ACHESON.
MONTEITH.	HAMILTON.
HADINTON.	S <sup>r</sup> THOMAS HOP.
MARSCHALL.	S <sup>r</sup> J. SCOTTISTARVETT.

To our verie honnourabill good Lord the Lord Weymes, Conveener of the Justices of Peace within the schirefdome of Fyffe.

66. WILLIAM, EARL OF LANARK, Secretary of State, to JOHN, EARL OF WEMYSS. Commissioner to General Assembly.

Whitehall, 12 July 1641.

MY LORD,—By his Maiestie's letter to your Lordship you will perceave the confidence he hath of your affection to his seruice in choseing of your Lordship his Comissioner for the Generall Assembly; wherin I doubt not bot your Lordship will carie yourself with that zeall and affection to religion, your king and countrie, as may not only confirme his Maiestie's opinion of your Lordship, bot encourage him to a further and dayly encrease of fauours unto your merit: which non salbe more glade of then,

My Lord, your Lordship's humble seruant,

LANERICK.

Your Lordship will, with his Maiestie's letter, receave his letter to the Generall Assembly, with the copie therof, and his Maiestie's instructions to your Lordship.

To the right honorable my very good Lord, The Earle of Weemes.



67. JOHN, EARL OF WEMYSS, Commissioner to the General Assembly, to KING CHARLES THE FIRST. Proceedings of the Assembly. 1641. [Draft.]

MOST SACRED SOVERAIGNE,—Haiffing the occasione of the Erle of Dunfermelings repairing to Londoun, I am bold to acquaynt your Maiestie that, according to your Maiesties directions, I attendit the dounsitting of the Assemblie in Edinburgh one Tuesday last, quher vnanimouslie they did choose Mr. Alexander Hendersone (who is weill knowine to your Maiestie) to be their Moderator. They redd over againe your Maiesties gracious letter, and dois spread the samen as ane wndenyabill demonstratione of your Maiesties great and tender cair of this kirk and kingdome. They haiff beine takine vp hitherto with reports and particular billis and complaintis. They haiff ressaued ane letter from some ministeris in Ingland concerning the questione of independent congregations, quherfra they schew themselues averse, and resolved onelie to medle with their awine church government. Albeit, your Maiestie hes beine graciouslie pleased to putt this honour and trust vpon one who neather culd haiff deserved, nor durst expect, the samen, yet, according to my duty and sense of your Maiesties favour, I sall faithfullie and diligentlie employ my endeavores, and I am confident, by God's assistance theron, and be the helpe of your Maiesties gracious instructiones (quherby they ar assured of your Maiesties pious intentions), to close within few dayes this Assemblie, not onelie without any difficultie or difference arryseing betuix your Maiestie and them as any waye opposit to monarchie, or amongst themselues, as in any sort inclyneing to anarchie, the tuo rockis quhilk your Maiestie, from the deipnes of your wisdome, directed them to schunne, bot also with the greatest contentment of the ministerie, who professeth thair resolutione in thair reteiring to thair particular charges, to communicat to their severall flockis your Maiesties gracious



intentions expressed in your letter for establishing religione and church government presentlie profest, for planting of kirks, prowying of colledgis, manteining the ministerie, and spreading of the gospell throw this hail kingdome, which cannot bot prove powerfull motives one the heartis and consciences of all your subjectis for to rander most cheirfullie all dutifull obedience vnto your Maiestie, as God's vicegerent sett over them for the sensibill good of kirk and stait. As this is the desyr, so it is the expectatione, and sal be the endeavor of,

Your Maiesties most humbill subject and servant,

WEMYSS.

1641.

68. THE SAME to THE SAME. Proceedings in the Assembly.

10th August 1641. [Draft.]

MOST GRATIOUS SOVERAINE,—Please your sacred Maiestie to recave for the present this schort accompt from your servant, that the Generall Assemblie having meddelled with nothings that might be any occasione of differ or debet betwixt your Maiestie and them, did close yister night in ane Christiane way of thankfulness to God and to your Maiestie, and dected this letter to your Maiestie as ane testimonie of ther sencible acknowledgment of your royall and religious favouris conferred wpone them, or offered to them, for the flourishing of piete and learning, and as ane assurance of ther constant resolutiones to manifest the saym in all dewtifull obidience, which is ane good prognosticke, and wilbe ane great preparative for the sattelling of all your royall effairs in this kingdome efter so long distractiones, quherwnto your Maiesties humbell servant sall contribut his hairtiest prayeris and best indevores. I suld have given to your Maiestie ane particular accompt of all that hes passed, if I had not percaved by the letteris sent from the Commissionaris at Loundone, your Maiesties constant resolutione this



weik to be one your jurnay towardis this your ancient kingdome, quher I sall attende your sacred persone, and ame confident to give your Maiestie all satisfacione anent my fullfilling your royall instructions, quhilk wer so pieus and acceptable, as they nether did nor could admite any contest or contradictione in the Assemblie; so not p[r]esuming further to trubll or interrupt your Maiestie in this your gracious jurnay, bot with my most fervent prayeris to the Almightye to protecte and direct from above your sacred persone and royall designes therin, I sall ever remaine your Maiesties most humbll subjecte and servant.

Indorsed : For the King, on the 10 Agust 1641.

69. KING CHARLES THE FIRST TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND. Appointment of Lord Montgomerie as Colonel of a regiment in Ireland. 15th April 1642. [Copy.]

RIGHT trustie and right weelbeloued cusin and counsellor, right trustie and weelbeloued cusins and counsellors, and right trustie and weelbeloued counsellors, wee greett yow weell. Wee wer pleased out of our speciall knowledge of the worth and abilities off the Lord Montgomrie, and not without many singular recommendations, to make choise and nominat him to be Colonell to a thousand horse, which are designed to compleatt the bodie of our armie and aide in Ireland, and have for that effect recommended to our Scottish Commissioners of the treatie his particular in the generall. That though wee may, out of the right of all our three crowns, make choise of all the officers, yitt that wee challenge the election of this colonell most speciallie as king of Scotland, that regiment beeing but an ikke and complement of the bodie of the Scotts foote, to be levied as wee conceive the most part Scots, or at least promiscuouslie and indifferentlie out of ether nation; notwithstanding whereof, the English Commissioners and Parliament stand to haue





the election belonging to them and not to us and our Parliament of Scotland. But wee, considering both the point of right and the concernment of that our ancient and native kingdome in the point of honour, likewise haue not onlie not yeilded ourselfe to theire demande, but thought fit also to require and recommend to your care the further presenting of this right by new and effecttall instructions to our Commissioners, that so both the honour of the nation may be preserued, and the Lord Montgomrie receive no wound through or vnder it. Wherein not doubting of your care, I bid yow farewell. Gevin at our Court in our citie of Yorke, this 15th of Aprile 1642.

70. KING CHARLES THE FIRST to JOHN, FIRST EARL OF WEMYSS, requesting his support in the Council. 18th May 1642.

CHARLES R.

RIGHT trusty and well-beloued cosen and counsellour, wee greete yow well. Hauing necessary occasion for calling our Counsell there, to consult and aduyse wpon sundry matters concerning our honor and seruice, and being in particular confident of your affection and forwardness to both, wee haue thought fitt to will and requyre yow, att this tyme in speciall, to aduance by your endeauours the generall sense and resentment of our occasions, which the present condition of our affaires heere doth challenge, and wee may justly expect from all our louing subjects. Wherin, therefore, not doubting of your speciall care, wee bidd yow farewell. Giuen att our Court att Yorke, this 18 of May 1642.

To our right trusty and wellbeloued cosen and counsellour, the Earle of Weemes.



71. KING CHARLES THE FIRST to JOHN, FIRST EARL OF WEMYSS, and DAVID, LORD ELCHO, his son. To show their friends the King's honest intentions. 21st April 1643.

CHARLES R.

RIGHT trustie and right welbeloued cousin and counsellour, and right trusty and welbeloued, we greet yow well. Since nothing on earth can be more deare wnto vs then the preservation of the affection of our people, and, amongst them, none more then of these of our native kingdome, which, as the long and wnterrupted government of ws and our predecessours over them doth give ws iust reasone, in a more neare and speciall maner, to challenge from them; so may they iustly expect a particular tendernes from ws in every thing which maie contribute to their happinesse. But knowing what industrie is wsed (by scattering seditious pamphletts and employing privat agents and instruments to give badd impressions of ws and our proceedings, and wnder pretence of a danger to religion and government) to corrupt their fidelities and affections, and to engadge them in ane onjust quarrell against ws their King, wee cannot therefore but endeavour to remove these jealousies and secure their feares from all possibilitie of any hazard to either of these from ws. Wee have therefore thought fitt to require yow to call together your freinds, vassals, tenents, and such others as have any dependencie wpon yow, and, in our name, to show them our willingnes to giue all the assurances they can desire, or wee possibly graunt (if more can be given then alreadie is), of preserving inviolably all those graces and favours which wee have of late graunted to that our kingdome; and that wee doe faithfullie promise never to goe to the contrarie of any thing there established, either in the ecclesiasticall or civill government, but that wee will inviolably keep the same according to the lawes of that our kingdome: And wee doe wish God so to blesse owr procedings and posteritie, as wee doe really make gude and performe



this promise. Wee hope this will give so full satisfaction to all who shall heare of this our solemne protestation, that no such persones as studies division, or goes about to weaken the confidence betuixt ws and our people, and iustly deserves the name and punishment of incendiaries, shalbe sheltered from the hand of justice; and all such others as shall endeavour peace and vnitie, and obedience to ws and our lawes, may expect that protection and increasse of favours frome ws which their fidelitie deserves. So, expecting your care heirof, wee bid yow heartily farewell. From our Court at Oxford, the 21 of Aprill 1643.

To our right trustie and right welbeloued cousin and counsellour,  
and our right trustie and welbeloued, the Earle of Weymes,  
and to the Lord Elcho, his sone.

72. JOHN, EARL OF LOUDOUN, Chancellor, to DAVID, LORD ELCHO.

To take his orders from the Marquis of Argyll.

Edinburgh, 19 Apryle 1644.

MY LORD,—The Marques of Argyle is [at] St. Jonston, and hes so full power and comission, as I hope when he is at yow, yow will neid no furder order frome hence for prosecuting that service, and anie desyris yow have to ws yow may addresse to him, to whome I have sent your Lordshipe letters; and I trust he will be with yow shortlie. Wee have lykewayes written to the Committee of Warre of Fyffe to haisten the remainder of their horse and foote to yow. I rest,

Your Lordship's assured freind,

For the Lord Elcho.

LOUDOUN, Can<sup>l</sup>rius, *I.P.D.*

73. THE COMMITTEE OF ESTATES to the COMMITTEE OF WAR OF THE SHIRE OF KINCARDINE. To raise money for preparing a train of Artillery. [1651.]

RIGHT HONORABLE,—The King's Maiestie and Estates of Parliament haveing, for the more speedie preparing of a traine of artelyearie to



goe alongs with the armie, appoynted certane soumes of money to be payed be the shyres out of thair bygone monethlie mentenance to the generall of artelyearie; and the shyre of Kincairdyne being appoynted to pay one thousand thrie hundreth threttie nyne punds for thair proportion, wee have thought fit, in regaird of the necessitie that the armie be provyded with sufficient artelyearie, whilks cannot be gottin done vnles this money be furthwith payed in, to desyre yow, as yow tender the good of the service, to tak some effectuall course how the soume afoirsaid may be presentlie delyvered to the generall of artelyearie, or anie haveing his order. In caice of anie further delay of payment of this soume, orders ar given for quartering on the deficientes; which wee ar confident yow will prevent by a reddie obedience to this so necessar ordinance of his Majestie and Parliament. Wee ar,

Your assured freinds,

MARISCHALL.

R<sup>o</sup> HEPBURN.

GLENCAIRNE.

A. BELSCHES.

GALLOWAY.

JOHN RENTONE.

CRAIGDARROCHE.

PATRIK THOMSONE.

For the richt honorabill the Committee of War of the schiref-dome of Kincardine—thes.<sup>1</sup>

74. MISSIVE from the COMMITTEE OF ESTATES to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Surprise at Eliott.

Aberdeen, 30 Agust 1651.

RIGHT HONORABILL,—Wee being mett here vpon occasion of the late dissaster at Eliott, where many of the members of the Comittee of Estates and Comissioners of the Generall Assembly were surprised and taken prisoners by the enemy vpon Thursday last, and considering

<sup>1</sup> A similar missive, dated 1st July 1651, is directed to the shire of Elgin.





the sad condition the kingdome is now brought into, wee haue fund ourselues obleiged in duty to giue your Lordship notice thereof, and to desyre you, as you wish religion to be preserued, or this kingdome to be kepted from being totallie ouerrune by a handfull of bloody traytours, yow will forthwith, vpon sight hereof, repaire to Strathbogie, or any other place where the Comittee shall happen to be for the time, that according to the trust comitted to you and vs be the King and Parliament for gouerment of the affayrs of the kingdome, wee may joyne for the preseruatioun of this kingdome and of all that is deare or neere to vs. In this day of trouble wee rest,

Your Lordship's assured freinds,

BUCCLEUCHE.	GEO <sup>r</sup> JAMESON.
S <sup>r</sup> J. WEIMIS.	CALANDER.
J. G. DURIE.	S <sup>r</sup> TH. NICOLSON.
S <sup>r</sup> JA. MURRAY.	S. J. ARNOTT of Ferny.
A. BELSCHES.	Ro. FARQUHAR.
S <sup>r</sup> J. SMITH.	

For the right honorable the Earle of Weimes—these.

Indorsed: Copy of the Missive from the Comittee of Estates at Aberdeen to E. W., 30th August 1651.

75. GENERAL GEORGE MONCK to [DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS]. Bond for the Earl of Kelly.

Dalkeith, 14<sup>o</sup> September 1659.

MY LORD,—Having given libertie to the Earle of Kelly to goe about his occasions vpon engagement to gett his bond for his peaceable living sign'd in tenn dayes, and those who should have subscrib'd the same having refus'd to doe itt, I shall desire your Lordshippe will take some



course that in case hee doe nott give security for his peaceable living, hee may returne to prison : which is all att present from

Your Lordshippes very humble servant,

GEORGE MONCK.

My wife presents her service to your Lordshippe, Lady, Earle of Bucclugh and his Lady.

76. THE SAME to THE SAME. Hoping that General Morgan would keep the army in good temper.

St. James's, 19 April 1660.

MY LORD,—I have had the favour of your Lordship's leter by my Lord Balcomy, and shall bee very ready and willing to serve him or any of your Lordship's relations and frends, as I ever have been. I hope Major Generall Morgan will keepe the army in soe good a temper that neither your Lordship nor any others of the noblemen or gentry of Scotland will have just occasion to complaine, and I am confident your Lordship and all of them will behave yourselves with that temperance and moderation to them as yow allwaies had. And I doubt not but, in a very litle while after the sitting of the Parliament, care will bee by them taken to compose and settle the mindes of men as well as the nations, to the generall satisfaction of all parties and persons. And that this may bee is the constant prayer of,

My Lord, your Lordship's most humble and affectionat servant,

*George Monck*

To the right honorable the Earle of Wemys, at Wemys in Fyffe in Scotland—these. Scotland.



77. WILLIAM, EARL OF GLENCAIRN, Chancellor, to DAVID, EARL OF WEMYSS. Attendance in the Committee of Estates.

Edinburgh, 27 September 1660.

RIGHT HONORABIL, —Wheras the Comittie of Estaittis hath ressav'd letters from the Kings Maiestie requyring thame to issue ordouris for levieing of sex moneths assessment at sex thousand pund a moneth, assurreing that so soone as the said assessment is ordored to be raised the said forces shalbe commanded to marche furth of this kingdome; and the said committie finding by thair commissioun they have no power to levie any new assessment except the quiholl memberis of the Committie of Estait be advertesed to be present at the said meitting for laying on of the said assessment, and that the thrid part of the said memberis at leist be present: Thairfoir they doe requyre yow, as yow tender the goode of his Maiesties service and of this kingdome, and the removeing of the said forces now lying thairin, and as yow wilbe ansuerable to the trust laid vpon yow, fail not to keip the meitting appointit for this effect at Edinburgh, vpon the nynt day of October nixtocum, at nyne houres in the morning, quhich is expected from yow by

Your affectioned freind and servantt,

GLENCAIRNE, Can<sup>n</sup>rius, *I.P.D.* Com.

For the richt honorabil the Erle of Weymes—thess.

78. KING CHARLES THE SECOND in favour of James Wemyss as General of Artillery. 4th December 1660.

CHARLES R.

RIGHT trusty and right welbeloved cosens and councellours, right trusty and right welbeloved, and trusty and welbeloved, wee greeete yow



well. Whereas our trusty and welbeloved servant, James Weemes, generall of our artillery of Scotland, hath heretofore, in our, and that our kingdomes greatest straits, not only caryed himselfe, in his charge, without reproach, which is sufficiently knowne to most of yow, but did also vndertake to vs privately (after the disaster at Dumbar) to prepare a traine of 20<sup>th</sup> peices mounted vpon his owne charges, the least carying a three pound bullett, which was accordingly tymeously performed, and such was his zeale to our service, that hee brought with the said twenty, nyne peices more mounted, and forty twa small ones, shoutting one halfe pund bullet. In consideration whereof, wee recommend him to your care, and do will and require yow to cause payment to be made to him of what is still remayneing vnpayd of that 1200 lib. sterling, which was by Act of Parliament, or Committee of Estates, ordered to be payd him for that traine lost at Dumbar, and of what remains vnpayd of that thousand pounds sterling, which was ordained by Act of Parliament to be payd him, by diverse northerne shyres, towards the provideing of a traine of twenty peice of ordinance, and of what is still due to him vpon other acts of the Comittee of Estates, for his then present maintenance, and for the said nyne peices of ordinance and 42 small ones. And in regard our service here requires his speedy returne, wee desire his sudden dispatch. And so wee bid yow hartily farewell. Given at our Court at Whitehall, the fourth of December 1660.

By his Majesties command,

LAUDERDAILL.

To our right trusty and right welbeloved cosen and counsellour,  
 our right trusty and right welbeloved cosens, our right trusty  
 and welbeloved, our trusty and welbeloved, the Lords, the  
 Commissioners of shyres and burroughes assembled in our  
 Parliament of Scotland.





79. KING CHARLES THE SECOND to LADY MARGARET LESLIE,  
Countess of Wemyss. Accepting of her offer regarding the  
Countess of Buccleuch. [Holograph.]

Whithall, 14 June 1661.

MADAME,—I haue receaued your letter of the 28 May, by William Fleming, and am very sensible of the affection which you shew to me in the offer you make concerning the Countesse of Buccleugh, which I do accepte most willingly, and the rather for the relation she hath to you. I will in a shorte time send more particularly to you about settling that whole affaire, which I looke vpon now as my owne interest. In the meane while, I must thanke you againe for it; and be most assured that I am,

Madame, your very affectionate frinde,

CHARLES R.

For the Countesse of Wemyss.

80. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to KING CHARLES THE  
SECOND. In answer to the King's letter. [Copy.]

Elcho, 25 Iuly 1661.

MOST SACRAD SOUERAING,—I reseued your Maiestie's most grasiuous letir, and, by the expresions therof, accounts myself mor hapie then any thing els in the world cowld haue maid me. I sell wat for your Maiestie's further comands conserning that perticuler, as becometh,

Dried Souerain, your Maiestie's most deuoted and humble seruant,

MARGARIT WEMYSS.

For the King's most sacrad Maiestie.



81. KING CHARLES THE SECOND to MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS. About the ward of her daughter. [Holograph.]

Whithall, 25th August 1661.

MADAME,—Since I saw you, I altered the gift of your daughter's ward, but I am confident you will not mislike it, when you consider it is for the aduantage of the family you are come of, and for a person I haue so greate kindnesse for, and who, I am sure, will be as carefull of your daughter as you can desire. I referre you to him to tell you what I haue further resolu'd in relation to that family, which will be euidence enough of the care I intende to haue of it. The rest will be tould you by the bearer; only, I assure you, you shall not haue reason to doute of the kindnesse of,

Madame, your very affectionate frinde,

CHARLES R.

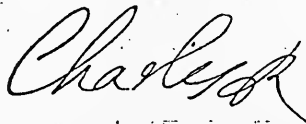
For the Countesse of Weems.

82. KING CHARLES THE SECOND to THE SAME. Approving of her coming to London with her daughter. [Holograph.]

Whithall, 7th Aprill 1662.

MADAME,—I could not lett this bearer returne to you without accompaning him with a letter. I haue not much to say to you now, because I finde you do intende to come hether with your daughter, which I do very much approue of; and then you and I will adiuste all thinges that shall be best for her and the estate. In the meane time, be assured that I am, and euer will be,

Madame, your very affectionate frinde,



For the Countesse of Weems.



Whishall 7 Aprill 1662.

Madame, I could not lett this  
bearer returne to you without accom-  
-panying him with a letter, I have not  
much to say to you now because I finde  
you do intend to come hether with your  
daughter, which I do very much approve  
of, and for then you and I will adieste  
all thinges that shall be best for her  
and the estate, in the meane time be assured  
that I am and ever will be,

Madame

Your very affectionate  
friend

Charles

For the Countesse  
of Weems.



83. KING CHARLES THE SECOND to the SENATORS OF THE COLLEGE OF JUSTICE. In favour of James Wemyss, General of Artillery. 12th November 1662.

CHARLES R.

RIGHT trusty and right welbeloved cousin and counsellour, right trusty and welbeloved counsellors, and trusty and welbeloved, wee greete yow well. Whereas our welbeloved servant, James Weemes, generall of our artillerie in Scotland, did furnish a traine of artillery, and present the same to vs, vpon his owne charge, in a most seasonable tyme, when our service there did most require the same. And whereas, in consideration of so necessary a service, severall Acts were then made for his satisfaction, when wee was last in that our kingdome; as also, wee did particularly recommend him to our present Parliament in their first session, to the end he might have beine payd of that so just a debt; and seing we are informed that our Parliament referred him to yow, wee do not only acknowledge that debt, but seriously recommend him to yow, that he may have speedy justice done him. And so wee bid yow farewell. Given at our Court at Whitehall, the 12 day of November 1662, and of our reigne the 14th yeare. By his Majestie's command.

LAUDERDAILL.

To our right trusty and right wellbeloved cousin and counsellour, the Earle of Glencairne, our Chancellor, and to our right trusty and wellbeloved Sir John Gillmore, knight, President of our Colledge of Justice, and to the remnant Senators thereof.





84. JAMES, DUKE OF MONMOUTH, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. The Duke's contract of marriage.

Whitehall, July 11th, 1663.

MY LORD,—About ten dayes since, the King was pleas'd to write, either to my Lord Commissioner, or to my Lord Lauderdale, to haue an act to pass to confirme my contract: I hope it will not bee neglected, but least their much buisness should put it sometime out of their thoughts, I begge the fauour of your Lordshipp to minde the Lord Commissioner, or whom else you please, for mee, that no time may bee lost in it. Mr. Ross will informe your Lordshipp of what else concernes mee. I shall therefore add no more, but that I am,

My Lord, your Lordshipp's very humble seruant,



For the right honorable the Earle of Wemys—these.

85. JOHN, EARL OF LAUDERDALE, to the EARLS OF ROTHES AND WEMYSS. The executry of Mary, Countess of Buccleuch.

Whitehall, 30 June 1664.

MY LORDS,—In obedience to your letter of the 21 June, I did acquaint his Majestie with what yow wrote concerning the proces yow are pursuing for the executrie of the late Countes of Buccleuch; and I am by his Majestie commanded to let yow know that he much desires yow wold not goe on in that proces untill the Duke of Munmouth choose his curators, which will be once this session. This his Majestie desires the rather that your Lo[rdships] writes the Duke of Munmouth is



concerned in the proces, and when he hath his curators his Majestie will no way stop the cours of justice.

This is all I had in command, who am,

My Lords, your Lordships' most humble servant,



For the right honorable the Earle of Rothes, Lord Thesaurer,  
and the Earle of Wemys.

86. KING CHARLES THE SECOND to JOHN, EARL OF ROTHES.

Appointing him to be Chancellor.

Whithall, 21 September [16]67.

MY LORD ROTHES,—You haue beine my commissioner thir 3 yeirs past in expecttatione of ane Sinode, and nou seaing war is past and peace cum, we find itt not fitte time to call a Sinode, thirfor we think itt fitt ye leay doune your charge as our Commissioner in Scotland to our Priue Counsell thar ; for I haue putt you in a pleasse of leasting trust and of more indourance, which is to be our Chanslar in that our antiante kingdome of Scotland, the other being but temporarie ; and so shoune as ye putt our affairs in that pouster that ye can leaue them, we think itt fitt ye repeaire heir to ws, wher ye shall be wery welcome to,

Your most affectionat frind,

For the Earle of Rothes.

CHARLES R.

Indorsed in handwriting of David, second Earl of Wemyss : The trew copie of his Majesties letter to his Commissioner, J. Earle Rothes, of 21 September deatte 1667. He did obeaye itt, and leade doune his commissione to Counsell, 8 October 1667, att Edinburgh, and went away the 16 October 1667 for Whithall.



87. LADY MARGARET LESLIE, Countess of Wemyss, to KING CHARLES THE SECOND. Thanking his Majesty for noticing her daughter. Indorsed 18th December 1667. [Copy.]

MAY it pleas your Majestie: Tho' I haue uery long kiept silincee, yet now it is not in my pouer any longer to forbear to tell your Majestie how ioyfull it is to me that your Majestie doeth so kyndly notis my doughtir. Her hapenes therin is on this earth my gretest confort; and since I am not lyk to haue it in my power to seru your Majestie any other way, my preyers shall be for your Majestie's hapenes, as is the oblidged dewtie of,

Most sacrad Souerain, your Majestie's deuoted and most humble seruant,

*Margaret Wemyss*

For his sacrad Majestie.

88. KING CHARLES THE SECOND to JAMES SHARP, Archbishop of St. Andrews. That he was well assured of his zeal and fidelity. 2d January 1668.

MY LORD ST. ANDREWS,—I am assured of your true affection and zeall, and I am confident you medle not with foolish jelousies. In soo doing you doe well. I am fullie persuaded of your caire and fidelitie. It is my desire that you continue in so doing, which will oblige me to continue,

Your affectionat friend,

C. R.

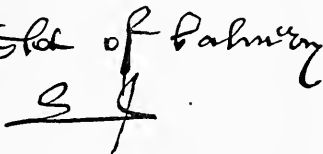
Indorsed: The copie of his Maiestie's letter to Arc-Bishoppe of St. Androis. 2 Januar 1668.



## II.—FAMILY AND DOMESTIC LETTERS.

89. SIR WILLIAM SCOTT of Balwearie, knight, to the LAIRD OF WEMYSS, expressing friendship. 28th September, *circa* 1525.

RYCHT HONORABIL SCHIR AND DERREST EM,—Efter mest hartle commendation. I spak nocht wytht Mastyr Wilyem quhil yestylda; and as to your vrytyng to me, he hes spokyne wytht my Lord of Rovthus, and thar is na fer thyng done in to the mater; and I hef spokyne to hym to pert wytht that mater honestle, quharthrouch that ye ma be pleissit the falt wes nowthyr in hym nor me, bot in your awyn schwth. My Lord of Rothows hes bene ane kynd man to hym and me bayth, and we man wis agane honestle to hym that he be nocht ane onefreynd to ws, consydryng his pert hes ay bene gude to ws; and as for me, I thynk neuer to gang fra your gait, as my brwthyr sone can schaw yow, to quhome ye gyf cr[e]dens, for he hes schawyn me your mynd at lenth. Wytht the grace of God I sal neuer fail to yow in thowcht, word, nor deid, mare nor ye wer my fathyr; and that I suld suceid to yow. Wytht credence to the berer as I hef said afore; and God keip yow in prosperite, in lang lyf, and gud hail. Writyn at Stramyglo, the xxviiij da of September, be your ald em at power,

William Scott of Balwearie  
 Knight 

To ane rycht honorabil man, and his derrest em the Lard of Wemis.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This letter appears to have been written by Sir William Scott of Balwearie, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Flodden in 1513, to David Wemyss of that ilk, who was his nephew by affinity. The father of David Wemyss was Sir

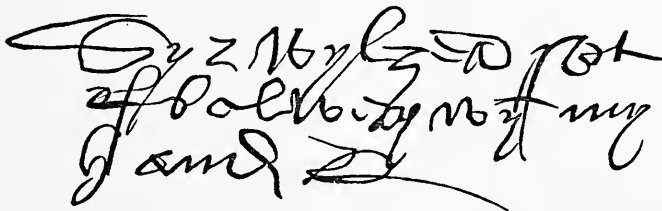
David Wemyss, who was killed at Flodden; Sir David Wemyss and Sir William Scott apparently married sisters, daughters of Lundin or Lundy of that ilk, and Sir William Scott was therefore "eme" or uncle to David Wemyss the younger.





90. SIR WILLIAM SCOTT of Balwearie to JOHN WEMYSS of that  
Ilk. To be caution. 1st April 1569.

FATHER, efter hartly commendatioun of service: This present is till aduerteis yow that my Lord Bischop of Mwrray hes causit charge me wyth letteris of the four fornes for the payment of my teyndis of Glendowok, and of ane pairt of the quhilkis I am nocht haldin to pay him as I onderstand, and the letteris is sa generall that I knawe nocht quhair wyth aw he charges me, and in respect of the generalitie I will get thaim suspendit vpoun caution, wyth owt the quhilk I will nocht get letteris of suspensioun: Quhairfor I pray yow effectuislie that [ye] will send yowr obligatioun to Johne Wallace, that ye will be caution and souirtie for me, to content and pay quhatsumevir sowme or sowmes the bischop of Mwrray sall happin for till ewict or recover aganis me. And I, Syr William Scot of Balwery, be thir presentis, bindis and oblis me, my airis, executouris, and assignais, to releife yow, and keipe yow, yowr airis, executouris, and assignais, skaithles at the said bischop of Mwrrayis handis, of quhatsumevir sowme or sowmes the said bischop sall happin to recouer or obtene aganis me. In witnes of the quhilk, I haif subscriuit this my mysiwe and obligatioun wyth my hand, at Strameglo, the first day of Aprile, the yeir of God j<sup>m</sup>v<sup>c</sup> thre skoir nyne yeiris, befor thir witnessis, Mr. Thomas Lyndesay, Androw Scot, and William Cwnynghame, apperand of Glengarnoch.



A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The signature appears to read 'Sir William Scott of Balwery' followed by a flourish. The text is written in a fluid, connected script.

To his father the Lard of Wemis.



91. JOHN BOSWELL of Balmuto to JAMES WEMYSS of Lathocker.  
 Marches of Powguld and Glenniston. 8th November 1573.

TREIST FREND, eftir my veray hartlay commendatione. This present is to aduertis yow that I may nocht be in Edynbroich as I promysit to yow, be rasone of ane barrone cowrt we haif wpon Mununday, the ix of November instant, etc. Nochttheles, I haif cawsit this berar cum vyth ane minit of the compromit to be meid, quhilk I beleif is conform to the commonyng; quharfor I pray yow rathir to be the instrument to forder concord amang frendis nor to hender the sammyn. For this berar hes schaven me that ye alleig that I haif omittit to put Glenniston vyth Powgowld in the compromit, albeit Glenniston hes na enteresse to the mur betux the merchis of Drumdonald and Powgowlde, the quhilk the instrumentis quhilkis the Lard of Vemes hes anent the decret arbitral betux the vmquhill Lard of Vemes and my fathir vill testefe. And alsua this berar will schaw yow ane testimoniall tharof, etc., tharfor I pray yow hinder nocht the mater to proceid as frendis hes devysit, for trewle my father hes nocht to do vyth Glenniston, bot onle vyth the merches of Powgowld. And sua I dowl nocht bot ye vill schaw yovr gud vill in forderyng this godle and frendle interprise, I committ yow to God. Of Balmowto, the 8 of November 1573, be youris at pover, JOHN BOSWELL, etc.

To the rycht honorabil and his assurit gud frend M. James Vemes of Lathoikkir, etc.

92. DAVID BOSWELL of Glasmont to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk.  
 Compromise about the Marches. 16th November 1573.

RYCHT HONORABIL AND EME,—Eftir my veray hartlay and tendir commendation. Conform to the ordour tene amange frendes the laist day wpon the myyr, I send ovir the valter immediatle thair eftir, and be



the aduys off yovr frend M. James Vemes of Lathoikkir and the Lard of Cleiche, thair vas ane compromit meid, and M. James Vemes desyrit effectusle that I sovd nocht send the sammyn to yow befor he cam ovir the valter, and he promisit to haif bene at me in Balmowto to that effect, nochttheles I heir na vord of hym as yet; quherfor becaws the tyme appontit is veray schort, to vit, the, xxiiij day of November instant, I thoich[t] it gud to aduertis yow thairof, and to send yow the said compromit to be aduysit; and geif ye vill keip the said xxiiij day, it vill ples yow aduertis me vyth delygens, that I may aduertis my frendis thairof, and alsua caws summon vitnes of my part. I haif na vyit geif the day be prolongit for the caws forsaid. Alvayis quhat ordour it sall ples yow to tak herintill I sall follow the sammyn, I beyng lawichfulle varnit befor. Sua lukand for yovr ansur in vret, I committ yow to God. Of Balmowto, the xvj day of November 1573, be yovris at his vttir powr,

DAVID BOSSUELL of Glasmont.

To the rycht honorabill and his eme the Lard of Vemes.

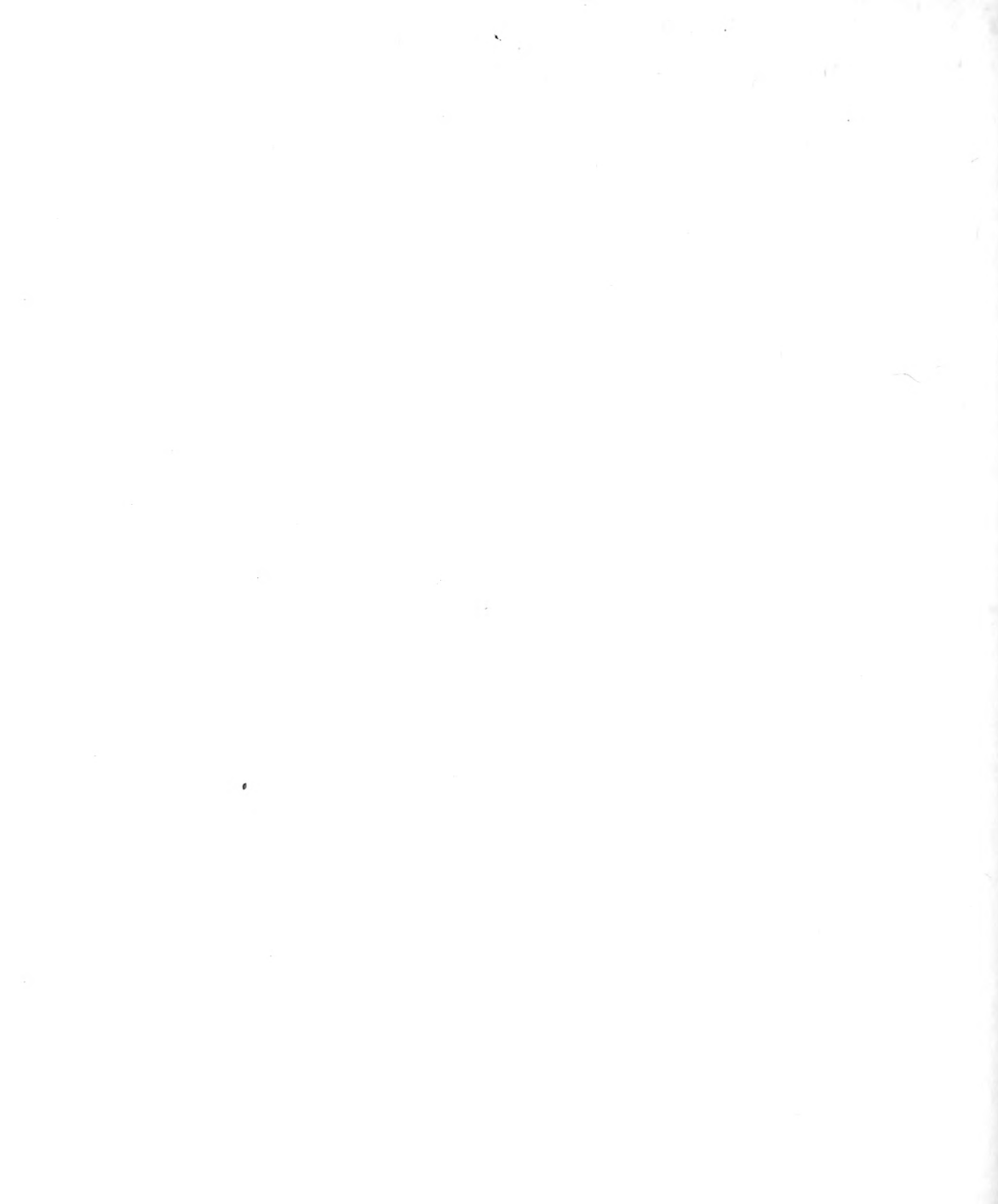
93. DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk [to DAVID BOSWELL of Glasmont].

Could not keep the tryste on the moor. 23d November  
1573. Copy.

RYCHT HONORABIL AND EME,—Eftir maist hartlie commendatioun. This present is to advertise you that according to the comonyng of our last trist vpoun the mvir, I causit my cousing of Lathoker pas to Edinbrught, and thair, be the avyis of the Lard of Cleysche for the Lard of Eistir Wemys, and ane seruand of youris send be your sone Johnne, maid ane compromitt in forne, wyth the quhilk compromitt I wes purposit to haue cumin the morn wyth my freindis to the mvir, quhome I haue convenit heir to that effect. And this nycht quhen I wes passand to my supper I ressaut ane writting fra the Lard of Eistir Wemys, quhair of ye sall ressaue the copy, and ye will thairby



persaif that becaus the Lard of Cleysche is presentlie in Peblis wyth the Regentis grace, and the Lard of Lochlevin hes sic besines ado in Edinbrught, that he may nocht wythout hurt keip the day, and that he thairthrow thinkis nocht gude to keip the day the morn as it wes appunctit; and as to the vther excuis that he mackis anent the nocht aggreing vpoun the macking of the compromitt, ye sall pleis be aduertisit that I, wyth the avyis of my freindis, aggreis to the compromit deuisit be the Lard of Cleische, my cousing Maister James being thair present wyth hym in all thingis, this onlie except, that I and Gawin, my bruthir, wald haue the compromitt extendit to the methis and marchis of the hail landis that ar in questioun amangis ws, quhilkis ar for my part the marchis of Litill Raytht, Powguld, and Glennistoun, as ye may persaeue be the summondis persewit befor the schiref of Fyif, and your letteris of aduocatioun rasit thairupoun. And seing the marchis of thir hale landis ar questionabill amangis ws, and the samyn depending in proces, I being avisit wyth my freindis, can nocht find it gude to compromitt the landis of Powguld and marchis thairof allanerlie, and leif the marchis of Litill Raytht and Glennistoun ondecidit, quhilkis ar alsua questionabill, and depending in the samyn proces wyth the vther, for my will is to put away all debaittis that is depending betuix ws of the marchis of thai landis, als honestlie and haistillie as it may be done be freindis, and dowtis nocht bot ye ar willand to do the samyn; and to the effect that ye may the bettir persaif my gude will and earnest desyir I haif to haif all thir debaittis of the marches betuix ws freindlie decidit, I haif send to you the copy of the compromitt deuisit be the Lard of Cleische and your seruand wyth my said cousing, nathing addit or parit thairfra, this onlie except, that quhair the Lard of Cleische wald haif onlie the marchis of Powguld in the compromitt, I haif addit the marchis of Litill Raitht and Glennistoun, becaus the marchis of the samyn ar debatable, and depending in proces wyth the vthir, and wythout the samyn be





compromittit the proces can nocht ceis; and man pray you to avyis wyth this compromitt, and gif ye find it gud that the samyn be subscriuit, and freindis convene thairupoun, ye will aduertise me betuix this and the vj of December nixt to cum. I haif writtin to the Lard of Eister Wemyss to this effect. And gif I get nocht your ansuer to compromitt vpoun the marchis of the hale landis quhilkis ar depending in proces togidder befor the said sext day of December, I man accept it for ane discharge of forther commonyng of freindis, and svit the ordinarie rameid of the law, quhilk gif I be laith to do, I will mak your self to be iuge, referrand the rest to your wisdome. And the Lord preserue you. Off the Wemyss, the xxij of Nouember, be your eme at power.

94. SIR WILLIAM DOUGLAS of Lochleven to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk. The compromise. 1st December 1573.

RYCHT HONORABLE SCHIR,—Eftir meist hertlie comendationis. I haue sene twa vritingis of youris, the ane send to my cousing of Estir Weymes, and the wther to the Laird of Balmowtow, quhairby I persaife that yee meyn nocht to assent to ony cowmoning or compromit betuix yow, wnles the samin be extendit to the marchis [of] Littill Rayht, Powguld, and Glennestoun indifferrentlie, quhilk, quhither the samen be ressonable or nocht, I remitt to forder tryall and proceeding. Bot, in the mentym, seing the compromitt, wyth all dewtefull claussis contenit tharin that is neidfull, can nocht weill be maid but the iugementt of sik man of law as is heir presentt in to this toun, I vald pray yow to send heir to this town sik of youris freindis quhame ye vill credeit, weill and fullie instructit of your mynd, that the samin may be maid heir in to this toun, eftir mature deliberatioun; and gif it be fund resonable that the compromitt sould be maid in maner foirsaid, wyth specificatioun of all the saidis landis indeferrentlie, the



same salbe grantit vnto, bot giff the samen aucht nocht to be, quhy sould ye desair the samen vnles it mycht stand wyth resoun, seing we ar all alyk villing that the mater tak sum end, rather be freindlie ordinance nor be rigour of law, or giff be this ordour of freindlie cowmoning the mater tak nocht effect presentlie, than lat the mater be socht be ordour of law; bot in the meintyme, quhill ye send first our heir to the effect abone writin, to conteneue the appointing of ony certan day to conwene, quhill first the compromit be maid heir in maner foirsaid. And sua remitting the rest to your wysdome and aduertecement, I committ yow to God. Of Edinburgh, this first of December 1573. Be youris assurid at powar,



I wald be sorry that this purpus suld nocht taik effec in respeck it hes sa far prosedit to that only ane point.

To the rycht honorabill the Lard off Vemeischir.

95. ANDREW, EARL OF ROTHES, to THE SAME. Feud between the Abbot of Arbroath and the Laird of Lochleven. 8th August *circa* 1575.

RYCHT HONORABILL SCHIR,—Efter my maist hartle commendatioun: I resavit your letter this day, at fyve houris at evin, makand mentioun that ye dout nocht bot I knaw off my Lord off Arbroythtis cuming to Cupar this nycht, and to pas fordervart his jurnay to the Quenisferre,



and of the conuocatioun of the Kyngis legis be the sam Lord and Larid of Loychtlevin ; and that ye haif resavit letteris to that effect fra bayth the parteis, desyrand me to aduertes yow with this berair, in wreit, quhat wilbe my part in this caus, giff I wilbe partie with ony of the parteis, or mydman : lykwys desyrand me to aduertes yow quhair ye and I sall meit the morne, to june our forcis, and accompany our selffis togidder, lyk as our hous and antecessouris hes done heir to foir. Schir, I haiff resavit ane letter fra the Abbot of Arbroytht, and ane vther fra the Larid of Loychtlevin, in lyk maner. The Larid of Loychtlevin maid mentioun in his letter to me that the Abbot of Arbroytht was to persew him in his by cuming. My ansuer was to the Larid of Loychtlevin, that, gif he menit sa, I wald taik plane part witht him, and wair my liyff in his defence : bot vtherwys, gif the Abbot of Arbroytht menit nocht to do him wrangus dishonour, I geff the Larid of Loychtlevin my consall, be wreit, and also send ane gentill man to him, be credit, desyrand him effecteusle nocht to tak na interprys to trubill my Lord of Arbroytht in his jurnay, be consall of wicit men that knew nocht quhat it menit to enter deidle feid betux tua nobill hous that, eventour, wald nocht be reconsallit agane in our ageis ; besydis the gryt inconvenient that mycht presentle fall furtht be baytht the parteis. I resavit the Laridis ansuer agane in all thir pointtis, quhilk contentit me na thing, as ye sall knaw, schir, at meting. Also I send ane seruand yisterday, in the morning afoir the sone rying, to my Lord of Arbroytht, desyrand his Lordschip to asswir me in wreit giff he was of mynd, at his cuming in thir partis, to persew the Larid of Loychtlevin, or nocht : and gif his Lordschip menit to persew him, I wald taik his plane part, and wair my liyff in his defence. His Lordship hes asswrit me, on his honour, thait, at this present, he menis to trubill the Larid off Loychtlevin nor nane of his, na way ; but to ryid furtht his hee way to the Ferrey, except the Larid of Loychtlevin persew him, than he man defend himself, as apertenis ane man of



cwrage to do. Schir, the maitter is werray hard to me. The Larid off Loychtlevin hes merreyis my sister ; and my Lord off Arbroytht and I am tender of bluid, and his Lordschip and my barnis mekill nerar. Giff ony off tham haid ane actioun aganes ane vther partie that war nocht my freind, I wald nocht speir thair caus, bot wald hesart my liyf with ony of tham. Schir, I intend, God willing, the morne to pas to feildis ; and to that effect, hes warnit sum freindis to meit me at Strameglov, afoir sax houris. Schir, gif ye pleis, the morne I sall meit yow at Kirknes, be sevin houris ; and I dout nocht bot God sall work in yow and me to maik ws guid instrumenttis to stay the inconvenient off blud schaid that apperis to be betuix thai tua nobill men, that ar bayth our freindis. We sall giff tham our trew consall bayth ; and gif thai will nocht content with ressoun, I think we sall be neir by parte to ony off thame. Schir, I wald ye and I war betwix the tua parteis, that thai cum nocht in seycht of vtheris ; for gif thai see vtheris, it wilbe hard to hald thame sindre. And for that caus, I think Kirknes the best place to meit at. I sall knaw the morne, or ye and I meit, baytht of my Lord of Arbroythtis dyat and off Loychtlevinis. I haif tane lytill rest sen first I hard thir newis ; for thai ar na thing plesand to me. Schir, lat be to june witht yow in this caus, gif it war in your avin particular charge ; quhan ye pleis, ye sall fynd me redde to be with yow, and all that will do for me. Schir, I think nevir that the freindscheip that was betuix your father and myne, and hes stand sa lang amangis our hous, sall nevir decay in my part ; and lykwys lukis for the contenance thairof in your syid. Leving to trubill yow mair at this present, committis yow to the protection of the Almyctie. From Ballinbreycht, the aucht of Agust.

Your asswrit freind at the vtermast of his powar,

ROTHES.

To my speciall, the Laryd off Vemmis, etc.





96. WILLIAM, FOURTH LORD RUTHVEN, to THE SAME. Death of the sister of the latter. 20th August 1581.

BROTHER,—Eftir maist hertlie commendationis. I ressaued your lettir beirand that your sister was departed, quhairof I was aduerteist befor the cuming of your lettir to my handis, and that ye had thairfoir send the berair to aggre with me for the warde and mariage, quhairintill I haue bene rycht easie, and past the samyn for the compositioun of fywe hundreth merkis, quhairof thair is foure hundreth ressauid, and ane hundreth restand, quhilk I desyr to be send to my seruitour, Johne Oliphant, becaus the samyn is rollit owir vpoun his heid. Giff I had nocht preferred your sute to vtheris in this cais, I mycht haue had tua thowsand merkis for the samyn, becaus thair was courteouris and vtheris that wald with a glaid will haue delt in this mater. Always in this or ony vther thing lying in me may do yow plesour, ye sall be assured that I will nocht wey yow in ballandis with vtheris, quhairof at all tymis, as the occasioun beis offerit, ye sall haue gude prwfe. In respect of the sufficiencye of the berair I forbar for the present to truble yow with langer lettir. Committing yow to the protectioun of the Eternal. At Haliruidhous, the xx of August 1581.

Your lowing and assurd brother,

To the rycht honorable and his weilbelouitt brother the Laird of Weymis.



97. *PATRICK ADAMSON*, Archbishop of St. Andrews, to *THE SAME*. To visit the Wemyss. 25th August 1582.

*RICHT HONORABILL*,—This present is to let yow vnderstand that I am cum our the watter; and, being nyctit for fault of my hors, is alwayis redie to resort towartis yow, to haiff your aduys in sum of my adois, the morne, in the morning; praying yow, becaus I am heir, bot singill, and vpoun accident, that I may haiff your reasonabill convoy to your hous as ye think best. Sua committis yow to God. Fray Kiugorne, the xxv of August 1582.

Youris at power,

P. *SANCTANDROS*.

To the rycht honorabill the Lerd of Wemis.

98. *MR. JOHN WEMYSS*, Champeaux, in France, to *THE SAME*. Mentioning the death of the Laird's son. 1st May 1583.

*RICHT HONORABILL SCHIR*,—Efter my maist humble commendatiouns of service: This tyme bypast I differrit to wrett to your maisterschip, awating on sure commodite; quhilk hauing fund be this berar, sone to the gudman of Lathangy, lest your maisterschip suld esteme me unmyndfull of my deute touardis your maisterschip, I haue takin the hardines to present thir feu lynis to your maisterschip, to the effect your maisterschip may be assurit (as the treuth is) that I remane, and sall continew to my lyffis end, in ane constant and perpetuell affectioun to obey and serue your maisterschip, as I acknouleg my self detbund; in respect quhairof, so lang as it pleasis God I remane in thir partis, I sall; God uilling, imploy my trauell that heirefter I may be abill to do your maisterschip service. I lament (safing Goddis pleasour) the death of your maisterschipsis sone, quha, I dout not gif it hed pleasit God he hed sene this countre suld haue bein ane honour to your maisterschipsis hous, and to all freindis. Bot I dout not bot God uill comfort your



maisterschip in blissing the rest of your maisterschipsis barnis by wisdome and uertew. Sua, fearing to offend your maisterschip by long letter, praying God to grant your maisterschip perfyte felicity, efter my maist humble commendatiouns of seruice to the lady, your maisterschipsis bed-fellou, your maisterschipsis sone Jhone, the young Laird, comittis your maisterschip to the protection of the Eternel. From the castell of Champeaux in France, the first of May 1583.

Your maisterschipsis maist humbill and obedient seruitour,

MR. JHONNE WEMYSS.

To the richt honorable the Laird of Wester Wemis.

99. ANDREW YOUNG, notary, to [THE SAME]. Interruption of Balmuto's fishing of Lochgelly. *Circa* 1583.

As concerning the ansuer of your maisterschipsis bill. We past to Louchgelly vpon the xj day of Apryll last was, and thair Johne Richie, procutour for your maisterschip, past to the Laird of Balmowtois boit, and in presence of the witnessis protestit in your maisterschipsis name that the Laird of Balmowtow, be his fisching thair, and in his name, trublit and molestit your maisterschip in your possessioun, title, and rycht of the said louch for your pairt. And forder, that the fisching thair be the Laird of Balmowtow, and in his name, be nocht preiudiciall nor hurtfull to your maisterschipsis possessioun, title, and rycht quhatsumeuer. And in taikin thair of, maid interruptioun to the Laird of Balmowtowis fisching thair be drawing of his boit one the dry land. And mairour protestit that na interruptioun or impediment done or to be done be the Laird of Balmowtow or in his name to the Laird of Wemys seruandis boitt or fisching thair vpon the said louch, be hurtful or preiudiciall till the Laird of Wemys fisching, title, entres, possessioun, and rycht of the said louch and pertinentis. This was the hail effect of our proceedingis thair. And alsua made intimatioun of



the premissis to tua tennendis of Eister Louchgelly, being present with ws as to thame, quha wald signifie the samin to the Laird thair maister. Swa ceissing to truble your maisterschip, committis your maisterschip to the Almychtie. Your maisterschipsis seruand William Da can declair the names of the witnessis.

Your maisterschipsis awin man to be commandit at his wttermost,  
 ANDRO YOUNG, Notar.

100. WILLIAM, FIRST EARL OF GOWRIE, to JOHN WEMYSS, apparent of that Ilk. Convocation by Balmuto. 24th May 1583.

COUSING,—Eftir maist hertlie commendatioun : I ressauit your letter this Friday, at ix houris befor nvne, schawand that the Laird of Balmuto had contravenit the Kingis Maiesteis letteris be convocatyng ane nvmer of horsmen and cumyng ewyst the Laird your faderis hous, quhilk can be na vthir wayis thoct of bot that he hes contravenit the charge, and vilbe considerit of as the wechtynes of the offence meritis. Bot I wald nocht that the Laird your father, nor ye, suld incur the Kyngis indignatioun be acqyting this folye wytht the alike form of doyng, quhilk ma be bettir, and wytht gretar honour, ovirtakin wthirwayis, as ye sall schortlie se, be the proceeding of that mater. As for freyndschip in court, ye ma assuir yourself that all the moyane and crydite I hef salbe extendit in the Lairdis favour and yowris, as gyf the actioun war my awin, quhair of yowr vnfreyndis sal hef prwif; besyde that, I vilbe als reddy to tak plane part in all honorable actionis of yowr fatheris hous as I will do for my awin aganis quhat-sunevir partie vnder the Kyng. Gyf the Abbot of Dumfermyng declair hymself partiall in that mater, as ye wret, it salbe sene quhethir I or he ma do maist. The dyet betuix yowr fader and hys nychtbour is appoyntit to be keipit at Edinbrugh, befor the counsale, and nocht quhair the Kyng is ; quhilk I sall nocht fail to observe, gyf it be nocht alterit. In the mentyme, I sall remembir the purpos ye





wret of tueching ordour taking betuix Henrye Adamsoun and Olywair Peiblis, and do to the removng of that qwerrell quhat I ma of ressonne. The dyet contenit in the Kyngis charge betuix your fathir and his nyctbour will hald; thairfoir it war meit he providit to keip the said dyet. I wret laitlie fra Edinbrugh to the Laird your fadir, befor the Kyngis passyng to Lynlyqhow, bot I am incertane quethir he ressaut the samyn or nocht; quhairof I wald be aduertisit. I pray yow, lat this present mak my hertlie commendationis to your fathir. And sua, for this present, I commit yow to the protectioun of the Eternall. Of Pertht, this 24 of Maii 1583.

Your lowing and assurit cousyng,

*Gosvye*  
 & *J*

To his traist cousyng, Johne Wemys, apperand of that Ilk, etc.

101. JAMES LORD DOUNE to his son-in-law, JOHN WEMYSS, younger of that Ilk. Feud with Balmuto. 31st May 1583.

SONE,—Sen my last writting to yow, my seruand hes tareit in Lynlythkow till this last Thurisday, and cum nocht hame quhill within the nycht. I persawe this day my Loird off Angus was till haiff cummit our the watter to Balmvto, to haue convoyit the Laird of Balmvto, the morne, to the Kyng. Bott the kyng hes writtin twa missiues, the ane to the Laird off Balmvto, quhilk he ressaut yeistrein, and, I think, ye haif ressaut ane vther or now, baytht to ane effect, to remane at your awin howssis, and cum nocht toward him vnto the day affixit before the counsall, quhair his Maiestie is off extreme mynd to try in quhais syd the gretast disobedience hes bene, and to puneis the offendaris. Quhat place your comperance salbe in, I can nocht certefie yow till the morne, I speik



with the Kyng my self; bott I think it can nocht be in Dumfarmeling, in respect my Loird off Ergyll nor my Loird off Gowrie will nocht cum thair. Bot, as I fynd the occasioun, I sall owther gar schwit it till ane vther day, or vtherwayis it salbe in Faikland, and yitt vpoun sum langer day nor the viii day. As I proceid heirin with the Kyng ye salbe aduertesit. In the menetye, ye sall send west Johne Weymes to me, the morne be ten houris, to remane with me still in Dumfarmeling, to the effect that I at our occasionis may awys with him quhat mycht be done. Haiff sum vther in Dumfarmeling on Sounday at evin, to bring yow abak word, ony abill fallow, sic as Johne Banc. Sone, I assure yow, and I am credable informit off the samin, that thair is nocht ane word spokin in the Weymes bot it als sone in Balmvto: thairfore, as I writt off before, off all thing lewand seccrasie is the best. Schir Robert Melwene spak with me this last Thurisday, in his bypassing, to quhome ye and your father bayth ar behaldin to gretlie, nochtwithstanding that his brother mareit the Laird off Balmvtois sister; for he hes schawin to me that his guidschir and his father left in thair testamentis, that, quhat euir occasioun presentit, thair suld neur ane off the hous off Reathe cum aganis the hous of the Weymes: quhilk will off his predecessouris he will always obey, and tauld me he was to ryd to his eldast brother to se that he did the lyk, and all the rest off freindis off that hous. He tauld me ane mery sport off the Kyng. Vpoun Thyisday at evin last was, eftir supper, gangand vpoun the Peill of Lynlythkow, thay begane to gather kempis to se quhay mycht heid moneast; and thairthrow kaist vp all the quarrellis and debaittis betuix all thame in Scotland; and sum tuik the pairt of ane and sum tuik the pairt off vtheris. In the menetye, Donipace says thair, "The quarrell betuix the Laird of Weymes and Balmvto;" and the Kyng crys thane, "Gar seik me ane guid kemp, for I will fecht in that quarrell." The Laird of Donipace askit him, quhilk of thair pairtis wald he tak. He sayid, "Be Sanct Marie, the Laird off



Weymes pairt." And Donipace ansueris, "Heir am I, the Laird of Balmvto, formentis yow." The Kyng and he fell till it, and he worrit Donipace, and sayid till him : " Now I haue worrit yow, and sa will I ay." Meikle Rob Orak off Brountelan, that is with Robert Melwene, sayis thair was. money that chappit on vther albakkis, and lykit litill of that speikin. Bot ye sall nocht report this agane till ye heir it of sum vther folk : for Sir Robert will tell it to sum body. Commend me hartlie to the Laird, and to the Lady my dochter, and to James. And the Loird preserwe yow all. Writtin frome Donibirsill, the last of Maii, anno, etc. 1583.

Your lowing father to his power,

DOWIN.

To his sone, the young Laird of Weymes.

102. JAMES LORD DOUNE to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk. The King's desire to settle the feud. 28th January 1583.

RYCHT HONORABIL,—Efter my verray hairtlie commendatiounis. Hawing conferrit with the Leird of Colluthie and Mr. James M'Gill, your guidson, concerning this debeittabill matter betuix yow and the Leird off Balmowtow vpoun the Leird off Seiggeis suitt and myne, that the Kingis Graice mycht put that same mater to ane perfynt end, ether be his Maiesteis awin decretit, or thane that the same may be remittit to the iudgis ordinar of the seassoun, it hes pleissit his Maiestie for this effect to derset ouer the beirer heirof, Alexander Yowing, with tua seuerall missiwis to ilk ane of yow, desyring ether of yow till nominat tua freindis to quhome ye will submitt the matter, and that ye aggrei baith on ane owersman, and to appoyntt ane plaice quhair thai sall conwein and quhat day thay sall discerne theiron, quhilk, schir, in my opinioun refarring alwayis to vyser men salbe the best that ye can do theirwith. Vtherwayis his Heimes hes ordenit



yow the x day of the nixt moneth to be heir present to sie ordour ten theirwith be his Maiestie. Newertheles, I pray yow, schir, for sum thing that I know, in the nominatioun of your freindis, ouersman, day and plaice, in respect that his Maiestie hes gewin yow the preheminance to be first requereit, lat the falt of the refus of his Maiesties letter be ewer fownd in your nychtbouris hand in all poyntis. And thairefter keip the nixt day affixit: and be Goidis graice we sall help to put that matter to the best poynt that we may. Remitting all vther thing to your aduertisement. Praying yow to mak my hartlie commendationis to your bedfallow, quhome with yow I committ in the protection of the eternall God. Vreitin frome Halyroudhous, the xxvij day off Januar 1583.

Your awin assuirit to his power,

DOWIN.

To the rycht honorabill and his verray assuirit guid freind the Leird of Vymes.

103. DAVID WEMYSS of Wemyss to [JAMES LORD DOUNE].

Appointing arbiters. February 1583.

MY LORD,—Eftir my waray hartlie commendationis. According to the desyr of the Kyngis Maiesteis letter and your lordschipis, I haue nominat for my part in the actione betuix me and Balmowto, the lardis of Pettyncreif, Culluthy, and James Wemys of Caskybarrian, or ony tway of thaym, and, in cais of discord, the lard of Craighall to be ourman; and becaus the laird of Craighall is seik of the gut. I haue reffarrit day and place of meting to be appointit be the Laird of Craighall, as alsua the form of meting; and sic ordour as he sall preseryve thairin I sall obserue, God willing; quhill I pray your lordschip schaw to the Kyngis Maieste, gyf Balmowto will aggre heirunto, I trest the king sall be nay forder trublit wyth that matter. Bot in case the L[aird] Balmowto aggre nocht heirto, I sall be rady,





God willing, to cum to Edinbrught the xxiiii of this moneth, befor the Kingis Maieste and counsall, that thay may put sic ordour to me as his Heines sall think guid. The x day of this instant is our schort, in respect I ressaute nocht the kingis letter quhill yistren lait.<sup>1</sup>

104. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF ANGUS, to DAVID WEMYSS of that Ilk. To accompany her before the Commissaries. 23d December 1586.

RYCHT HONORABIL SIR,—Efter my weray hartlye commendatyown. Ples your m., I am sowmond afor the Commyseris, the xxviii of this instant, quhill, wil God, I mynd to obserw. Heirfor has tain the ocaseyown to request your m., amongis my speycall freindis, to accompanye ws thair, with swa mony of your m. honorabil freindis as the schort warning will permit; and that your m. and your m. son be in Edinbrocht on Twysday nyxt, in the defens of my honor, lyf, land, and geir, and that I m[a]y haw your m. gud cownsaill in all thingis. In swa doing, your m. vill haw na dishonor, in respect of my inocensye. Swa nocht dowting bot your m. will obey my earnest disyr, lyk as your m. sall find me and myn redye to implesur your m. to our power. Swa lewing to importunat your m. with moir prolyxetie to meiting, I comit yow to God. At Dysert, the xxiii of Disember 1586.

Your maisterschipis veray lufing freind at full power,

Margaret Countess of Angus

To the rycht honorabil Lard of Wester Wems, my maist speycall gud freind, gew this.

<sup>1</sup> The draft of this letter is written on the King's letter, dated 18th December 1583, No. 29, *supra*.



105. MR. GEORGE GILLESPIE, minister of Wemyss, to DAVID, LORD ELCHO. Proceedings in Assembly of Divines at Westminster, etc.

Worcester House, July 24, 1644.

MY NOBLE LORD,—I received your Lordship's last, with the relation of the northerne businesse, and another letter by my brother John, for all which I humbly thank your Lordship. As for that wherein your Lordship desires to be satisfied, your Lordship having heard that presbyteriall governement is not to be set vp here, I remember I wrote my mind confidently to your Lordship concerning this point before; and, I thank God, nothing hath since occurred to diminish my confidence in that. Only, Divinity tells me, "He that beleivs shall not make haste;" and the English parliamentary proverb tells me that "great bodies move slouly." I knou malignant wits catch at every shadou of specious pretexts against the publik proceedings here, and many are ready to beleive their reports, not knouing the reall grounds of such proceedings, or what is intended by them. I meane not to excuse the Parliament's delayes in reformation, against which we speak both in privat and publik; only I speak against the false interpretation which malignants make of those delayes. That which must first be dispatched is the matter of ordination, for there are so many hundreth places vacand by sequestration of malignant ministers, and otherwise, that it is impossible to have any order without a speedie course for ordination. Next to that, the directory for publik worship is most call'd for, both in the citty and countrey, as that which will soonest stop the way of schisme and separation; for many separat because of the corruptions in the publik worship, as formerly it hath been, who will not separat because of the governement, in which they are not actors, as they are in the worship, and so their consciences nothing so straitned in the one as the other. But the



gouvernement will come in the oune place of it. Nou, for ordination, the House of Commons did commit that paper which was transmitted from the Assembly to a committee, which brought it againe to the House the last week. The House inclines, for the present necessity of the kingdome, to setle the extraordinary way of ordination by 25 ministers in London, and a proportionable number in other places: and for the other part of the Assemblée's paper, concerning the ordinary way of ordination by a presbytery, to lay that aside till the votes of the Assembly concerning presbyteriall gouvernement come to them (which are not yet transmitted from the Assembly till they be more perfected, and the wholle frame of the gouvernement, synods and all, prepared); that those things which necessarily cohere together may be considered and ratified together. There hath been no great debate in the House hitherto about the rules for extraordinary ordination, except about that article which requires that every minister to be ordained must subscribe the Covenant. The Independents in the House (who are very feue) did reason against it, that no man's conscience must be compelled, and that the taking of the Covenant is a free action; for that is one of their principles. But it was clearly carried and voted against them in the House that that article shall stand. This is to let you see that they have not so great pouer in the House. The cheif thing the Parliament sticks at in that paper, and other votes of the Assembly, is this: they are vnwilling to ratify the votes with the Scriptures wherevpon the Assembly hath grounded their votes: but they wold passe the votes without the Scriptures; because, they say, the Parliament never gives their reasons in their ordinance, but ordains the thing, especially if it be about church gouvernement or discipline. Many of them beleive there is no forme of church gouvernement *jure divino*; and the truth is, this is the greatest stumbling block in our way, that there is a great party in the Parliament who, though they be fully resolved to establish presbyteriall gouvernement as that which they



think most convenient for this kingdome, yet they are very vnwilling to establish it *jure divino*. But that your Lordship think not this a strange thing, I must tell you that when the Parliament of Scotland did ratify the presbyteriall governement there, they did not ratify it as *jure divino*. I have opened vp the true state of the businesse to your Lordship, that you may be the more able to ansuer objections. Nou the Assembly, ever since they concluded presbyteriall governement as agreeable to the word of God, and dispatched the matter of ordination, they have been vpon the directory, wherein they have advanced pretty well. They have done with preaching, prayers, reading of Scriptures, the Lord's Supper, and they have almost ended baptisme. They are nou adjourned for 14 dayes, that ministers may goe into the countrey and settle their effairs; and it is much that they have been above a tuelve moneth sitting and never adjourned till nou.

The Queen having been a while in Pendennis Castle, took ship at Falmouth in a States man of warre, accompanied with some smaller ships, and with a gallies (in case of need). The Parlements vice-admirall, as soone as he heard of it, went after her, but could not overtake her; so shée is nou in France, and it is exspected shée will doe her best endeavours for procuring forces from thence against the Parliament, in which shée is the liker to come speed if Gravellin be taken or rendred. For other effairs I remit your Lordship to the printed papers, which I have herewith sent you. So with the cordiall offers of my humble service to my Lord your father, and to my Lord Burghley, and to Freeland, I am, vnchangeably,

Your Lordship's most affectionat humble servant,

GEO. GILLESPIE.

My Lord Humbie and M. Hatcher are come hither from our armies (nou at Duncaster since the rendering of Yorke) to represent their wants, and to advyse whether they shall next applie themselvs. The





propositions of peace are much longed for with our Commissioners from Scotland.

For my noble Lord, my Lord Elcho.

106. JOHN, EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to DAVID, LORD ELCHO. Affairs in Sutherland and Caithness.

Tayne, the 14 off August 1644.

MY WERIE HONORABIL GOOD LORD,—Your ordours we haue receawit from this berar, and as I haue formerly wrytten, ther neids nothing be expectit from ws heir till the slowness off Cathnes and malignancie off Stranawer and Assint, which ar within our divisione, be taken course with. I hope it will suffice ws to goe on according to the last Parliaments ordours sent with me heir, seing our diwisione nowe is imparit and clipt by taking such off the name off M<sup>e</sup>Kenzie from ws as wer appoyntit to joyne with ws by the first act; wher we wer to lewie 16 houndreth foott; as for horses, the Parliament did consider we wer vnable to furnishe anie, and therfor did dispence with them. The Laird off Murkell in Cathnes, who is conwiner off ther committie off war, doth alwayes forslowe them in that shyre, and not only hinder them, bot by his reports off [in]wasione off my Lord off Reay and others by sea, and throghe the fears off the Clane Donald from the west, puts all others in such feares, as ther will hardly be anie men at all gotten to be leiwed out off thir feilds, except such be taken course with for the ewell repo[r]ts, and all our nightbours about ws martch before ws, and then, God willing, we shall call vp ther reire. My coussing, Francis Sinclaire, is gone to yow with Drumme; we haue saifly delywerit him to the Shireff [of] Inverness, and to Torbet in my Lord Seafort's behalff. Murkell did make ws wait for him all Satterday, Souday, and Monday, till tuelff a clock, and Francis can showe your Lordship, which hath not prejudgit the lidges a littell in all places. I hope your Lordship will assist Francis, that none be shairers with him



in the prissoner's fynes, for others off the committie who wer present with him at the apprehending off them, altho he was cheiff man, wold wishe to be shairers also, notwithstanding he hath noblie intertinied them since ther taking; so I hope your Lordship will doe your best for him, and deall with him as I did formerly wryt to accept to be my Liwtennent Collonell, and iff he accept off it, that your Lordship mowe the committie to wryt in his favors, both to ws and Cathnes for that end, and that ane threathning letter be wrytten with him also to Cathnes, for the spidie dispatch off ther lewies. Ther is ane ge[n]tellman off my acquaintance, who, being bread with young Drumme, being his coussing, was foolishly led on by them against the publick, bot did newer drawe sourd nor shoot a shoott to the prejudice off anie off the lidges, as he suears and assewers by ane letter of his to me. Nowe he repents him selff off his follie, and doth promise amendiment in tymes comming. The gentellmans name is Wrquart, the tutor off Crommertis sone, Craighouse; therfor, iff your Lordship thinks he may expect anie favor, he will gett seweralls will be suirties for his good behaiour in tymes comming, and I hope your Lordship will advertise me what may be expectit, seing he was at Monross also, and that your Lordship will doe all for him yow can, seing only throghe ignorance, folly, and youuth, he was drawn on with the multitude; which favor I wold esteim, iff ther be anie possibilitie in obtaining off it, as done to my selff, and shall ewer [prof]ess that I am,

Your Lordship's affectionat coussing and servant,



Your cousing, my bedfellow, is in the old maner, and hath hir humble service presentit to your Lordship, whom shoe longs extreamly to sie.

It is no wonder that the Mr. off Reay doth giue no obedience to the Esteats ordours, when in despyt of them he doth keipe ane open table to the Marquess of Huntly in his feilds, and, as they report, doth goe openly to ther churches, which I admeir the Esteats sould so longe suffer.

For the right honorabill my werie good lord and most affectionat coussing, my Lord Elcho—these.

107. ROBERT BALFOUR, LORD BURGHLY, to DAVID, LORD ELCHO.

The Irish forces expected to come to Aberdeen, etc.

Aberdin, the 26 off August 1644.

MY NOBILL LORD,—Their is suire information cum to ws, that the Irischis that wor on the Lord Louits bounds hes killit faive men to the Laird off Grant, and cam that waye to Badgenoche, and ar nou cum doune to the heids off Die and Done, and ar exspectit hier, at the bruche of Aberdin: for the quhitche cause we haue appointit tuo randvouses, on for Baunfe at Strathebougie, and ane wther for Mar and Aberdin scyer, at Kildrimme, on Woddinsdaye nixt, the 28 off this instant; and because, as we exspec thy will only keipe the hills, quhair non bot Heland man must folou them, and that Badgenoche and all thois pairts ar the Lord Gordons bounds, we haue givin him comission to command all theis forssis in chiffe, that ar nevie reasit for the expedition, and only to indure during the pleasur off this committe, and haue reservit all commissions grantit by the parliament to anye wther: for your regement we will keipe it hier, and it is so mutche the better, that ye wos not hier, for althoe ye had bene hier, we behouit to haue givin him ane commission, or then his frinds wald not haue risin, and so it micht haue impedit the servise; and theirfor ye maye gait out



your runavayes, bot ye wald heist oupe the luetennant collonell, and the rest off the officers : so with my servise to the Erell off Wyems, and my douchter and all frinds, I am in heast, your Lordships servant,

BURGHLY.

Send my formar that I sent with Auton, and this wther, with diligense to the committe.

For my nobell Lord my Lord Elcho.

108. THE SAME to THE SAME. Putting forth soldiers.

Frydaye, the 23 off October 1644.

RICHT HONORABELL,—I vos at the committe this Woddinsdaye, and causit deliuer your letter to them quhair Captan Wardlaw was present with the Liutennant-Collonell, and your Liutennant Clarke, and this daye thy haue set out ane Act ordining all the commissioners off the parischis to appire before them on Tysdaye nixt, and to bring with them all thois that hes recett anye off your sojurs that hes returnit from Aberdin. And the hereturs quho hes bene deficient off putting furthe their men, and thois that brings not the sojurs with them thy ar to fein them. Then, for it is all their regraits that thy cum not furthe, I am confident or nou ye haue hard that on Setterdaye last Nevecastell was takin in by ane generall storme. At the quitche I hier only off Wachtouns Liutennant-Collonell and his Major, and Captane Muffet and ane wther captan that is killit, and no gryt number off sojurs. The Lord Reaye is takin prisoner, and the Erll off Craufurd and Sir Jhone Moruly, gouvernour, and sum wther commanders ar gotin in to the castell within the toune, quhilke thy will rander quikle. And for this their vos monye schots off ordinance schot from the castell on Mondaye at nicht, and beall fyers throu all the toune. So, with my loue to my dou[ch]ter and all frinds, I am,

Your Lordship's servant,

BURGHLY.





Aton scheue me that the Comitte, as thy haue wirrtin to you, will not be content that the sojurs be put furthe by anye bot the comitte off the schyre, and thairfor I desyrit your Liutennant Clarke to use no violence, and so it is not your faut iff thy cum not furthe.

For the richt honorabell my Lord Elcho, or my Lady Elcho.

109. MR. GEORGE GILLESPIE, minister of Wemyss, to DAVID, LORD ELCHO. Proceedings in the Assembly of Divines.

Worcester House, December 11, 1644.

MY NOBLE LORD,—I hope some of our number shortly shall give you a very comfortable account of church businesse, both of the directory and of the governement. There is a saffe conduct granted to the Duke of Richmond and Earle of Southhampton; but it was not granted till Prince Rupert's letter came, aknouledging that they are to addresse themselvs to the Parliament of England and Commissioners of Scotland, neither of which they would before aknowledge. This letter your Lordship will find in the printed paper here inclosed, as also a vote of the House of Commons of mighty consequence, which casheireth the Generall, Admirall, Manchester, Fairfax, Waller, Breerton, the Commissioners of the neu great seal, and many others, and will cast all the militia in a neu mould. The reasons given out for this your Lordship will also find in this paper; though there is some other thing in it better knouen to the wisdom of the contrivers. God make all well! Sir John Hotham is condemned to die. I can not writ at length. I beseech your Lordship present my service to my Lord your father, and to my Lady; also to my Lord Burghley, to Freeland and his lady, my Lady Sinklar, and the Lady Aiton, when ye see them. God blesse you all.

I rest your Lordships humble and faithfull servant,

GEO. GILLESPIE.



110. COLONEL CHARLES ARNOT to THE SAME. The Laird of Drum prisoner. *Circa* 1644.

MY MOST HONOURED LORD,—Wpon Fryday at 12 a cloack in the night I received the Laird of Drum and the remanent prisoners from the Shirreift of Murray, and wpon Monday at night I lodged them at Aberdeane with David Sinclaire. They are now als farr on as Coupar, so that blessed be God we are free of that burthen and fasherie, being the weightiest and kittelst that ever I sustaind.

I wes in doubt to haue come south while your Lordship return, tho your Lordship had left your permission for that effect, but upon Woddinsdayes night at ten a cloack in the night ther came a post from the shyre of Murray shaweing the approacheing of the Irish forces (chased by Argyle) to Innernes, and alreadie wpon the Lord Lovat's boundis, so that they haue represented the necessitie of favoureing further levieng of my Lord Murrays regiment, and also of sendeing wp some of your Lordships companies, and least it should turne to earnest I haue come home for 4 or 5 dayes, your Lordship will be putt to it if any be sent from your regiment in the case it standis in the tyme of harvest. Quherfor think of it seriouslie. If my wyff be at Pitlethie, I feare I come no further west. So your Lordship will excuse my nocht coming to yow for the present.

The berar Alexander Ferquhar is dispatched commissioner for Aberdeane for recovereing of a hudge pryce taken from them of Aberdeane to the almost ruineing of the stock of the toun; [h]is way is to Irland, quher your Lordships recommendatione to Sir Patrick Weymes is conceived the most hopefull way and meane of promoveing his purpose. I persuade my self your Lordship, takeing nottice of his relatione to Mr. Robert Farquhar, will nocht deny it, quhen it is lykewise humbly begged by your Lordships very humble and faithfull servant,

Eightmyle house.

CH. ARNOTT.



I haue neither paper nor purpose to salute my lady with at this tyme, and so I must beg her Ladyships pardon and acceptance of the remembrance of my humble service in this postscript.

For most honored lord and Colonel my Lord of Elcho—thes.

111. WILLIAM, MARQUIS OF DOUGLAS, to JOHN, EARL OF WEMYSS.  
Lord Angus and Lady Jean Wemyss.

Douglas, the 30 of March 1649.

MY HONORABILL LORD,—Since I find by my sone Angus that he hath cast his affectione vpon a young lady your grandchild, and that he assoures me boeth of hir goodwill towards him and of your Lordships and hir parents inclination till accept of his offer of seruice to you, I uas willing by this to signifie to your Lordship, not only the satisfacione I haue in my sones nou satling of himself, as I haue therto beine pressing him heirtofor, but also my hartly consent to your allyance, and his maching uth your family, nocht doubting but you will now concure in a spetiall ceare and respect of the well and standing of my house. So I doe intrat your Lordship to remember my blissing to your child, till I haue the occasione myself to assoure hir of prouing a kind father, as I shall euir remeane,

Your Lordships most reall and louing freind,

W. M. DOUGLASSE.

For my honorabill good Lord the Earle of Weemes.

This is the true copie of the Marquisse of Douglas letter to John, Earl Wemyss, vnder his oune hand and sealle. [This note is holograph of David, second Earl of Wemyss.]



112. SIR ROBERT CAMPBELL of Glenorchy to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Lord Callendar's son intercepted.

Balloch, the xiiij day of October 1651.

PLAIS YOUR LORDSHIP,—According to your letter I haue delywered your tronks, coffers, and armis dressed vp, as your Lordship desyred, to Williame Cristie, seruand to Jhone Campbell, and to Ladie Marie Grehame, my sonn and dochter. As for nowells frome such I haue, and as northe contrie, my Lord Callender sonn with my Lord Callender's tro[n]k and bagag var intersepted and broki[n] vp in the muris betuixt Breymer and Glensche, the Erle Callendar sonn ewill hurt vith ane bred surd in the hade, and wther thre or four mo hurt of the companie, and the hale tronks, coffir[s] brokin vp, and thair vase thre schore that fell on tham clad in Heland wed vith bowis, arraw, bagis, and long gunnis, done one the vj or vij dayis off October. Thojs that plunderit Dunkell, and kyled Thomas M<sup>c</sup>Nab be Englis, did plunder the toun off Foullis in Stratherin, and heried a pert of Stormound, Tullebaltain, and Glenalmound, and ar gon south ouer towardis Stirling. Thair number war about sax hunder horsemen and dregune[s]. So rest yowr seruand to your Lordship, freind and cusing to serue your Lordship.

R. GLENORQ[UHAY.]

This for the Erle of Wombis.

113. JOHN CAMPBELL, fiar of Glenorchy, to THE SAME. The Earl's goods in Finlarig.

Inerary, 17 October 1651.

MY LORD,—I made bold to braik vp the inclosed heir, quhilk mooved me to post away ordouris to Patrick Campbell and Willian Chrystie, my servants, to secure your Lordships guidis in Finlarig, or the Ile of Lochtay, till they might haif 20 or 30 able men to convey the





cariage to Glenurquhay, bot I expect the same will be this night or to-morrow in Glenurquhay without great danger, and apointed ten or 12 of my ablest men to attend, about ten dayes agoe, and sall allwayes to my waik power approve myself, my noble Lord, your Lordships most obleiged humble servant,

J. CAMPBELL,

Fear of Glenurq[uhay].

For the Earle of Weymes—thes.

Indorsed: Leard of Glenorquhay, one October 1651, vpon 6 troncks, which is in Castill Calchorne, 1651.

114. MARGARET, COUNTESS DOWAGER OF BUCCLEUCH, to DAVID,  
SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, afterwards her husband.

Shirefhall, 8 July [1652].

MY LORD,—My disyr preuailing so much with your Lordship this day, as to perswad yow to goe another way then ye intended, obliges me, in the sence therof, to return thanks, sieing in that mor respect then in manie visits, or rather then is diserued. I most presume by this to intret your Lordship to forget wher I am, that ther may be no uisit nor leter till the end of the nixt munth, at uich tyme hir resoloosion shall be imparted to your Lordship, who is,

My Lord, your Lordships most humble seruant,

MARGARET LESLIE.

For the right honorable the Earlle of Wiemes.

115. THE SAME to THE SAME. Asking him to delay coming.

Shirefhall, 26 Agust [1652].

MY LORD,—Since it pleses your Lordship still to expres so much respect, as willingly to alter any of your resolootions intended, I doe estiem it ane uery great obligasion, and shall not dowt bot, as it plesed your Lordship to promice, in your last to me at Edenburgh,



that ye wold delay your coming to this syd som tym yet, tho I shall not presum to pref[s]cryu, yet I houp not to be mistakin in this; since at present it is most fit, and it is the disyr of hir uho is,

My Lord, your Lordships most humble seruant,

MARGARET LESLIE.

For the right honorable the Earlle of Wiems.

116. PASS by COLONEL LILBURNE to JAMES WEMYSS, general of Artillery. 19th January 1653.

PERMIT the bearer heerof, Mr. James Weemys, late generall of the traine of artillery in Scotland, with his servants, horses, one sworde and necessaries, to passe into Fyff, and the parts therabouts, and to returne without interruption, hee having engaged nott to act against his Highnesse the Lord Protector, or the forces of the commonwealth in Scotland. Given vnder my hand and seale att Dalkeith, the 19th day of January 1653.

RT. LILBURNE.

To all officers and souldiers and others whome these may concerne.

117. JOHN, SIXTH EARL OF ROTHES, to his Sister, MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS. As to his affairs.

November the 1, 1653.

MY DEIR SISTER,—God enous hou great my desayr is to be at hom, and troulie amongst meanie other resons, the satisfaxion I shall reseae in sieng you is a uerie great uan. I am deuayiedet uithin my self uhat I shall dou at this present taym, for I cnou my condision in the act of fawer is as good as anie if not beter then anie prisonars, and I am adwaised to delay a fortnight or thrie uickes at most, for in that taym they say the Act uill sertinlie pas, or els I should imeadiatlie indeuor my coming to Beruick, which I cnou I might proqur. I am



resoluied to stay a litell, and if I faynd that it is not layek to pas uerie spidielie I will go on in my indefours for furdier libertie. I most tell you ingenuslie it is hardlie posibell for me to subsist, I heueng neuer reseuied anie munie this tualmunthe, exopt that which your good Lord sent me and uan hunder pound mor, and fiftie pound which I barouied and was peyied in Scotland. This my condision I heaue representied to you, bot meack your own yous of it, bot be shour to speack nothing of anie thing that is in this leter, for it is the desayr of,

Your most humbell seruant,

ROTHERS.

Ther is a great report that your dougter should heaue a peart of hir esteat teacken from hir by the Parlieament, bot I shall strauu to informe my self as much as I can and giue you aduertesment.

118. DAME JEAN LINDSAY, LADY TORPHICHEN, to her uncle, DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Her mother's furniture, etc.

Calder, 30 Januarii 1654.

MY NOBLE LORD,—It hath bein my frequent and humble suite to your Lordship that I might haue some of that housold stufe that your Lordship receaved of my mother, which (if your Lordship shall thinke upon it) were better bestoued on mee, for supplie of this ancient house I nou am placed in, that was spoyld by the publict calamitie, then to be storred up for the moth and canker woorme, that will consume such things not of present use. If your Lordship shall meit with such calamitie (as I pray the Lord youe may not) as hath seased on the most eminent housse of this land, and innocent to the eyes of men, it wold grive your Lordship to haue restrained from me a' part of thos things which your Lordship recaued of my mother in such plentie. I mynd not so much as to speak of law against your Lordship; yett I can not but think that your Lordship is tyed in conscienc to deall



better with me. I am constrained to use the more freedom with your Lordship, after the use of all the means my judgment could reach, by finding after finding, of greater and better qualities, and all of nearest interest. And however your Lordship hath framed up a course of law to shelter under, yett I am persuaded my mother did both desire and expect a greater duty to be done to me nor I can now find. And tho' all the obligations my mother did put upon your Lordship (greater than which no sister could put upon a brother) should be laid aside, I think my husband and I did use your Lordship more kindly in discharging your Lordship's intromission with my means out of Arroll, while as I had my dyet of my noble grandfather, with as great love and freedom as his other children, and so the surplus of what your Lordship received more nor was bestowed on me for my clothes and little necessities, would plnish a good house. I uret not this that your Lordship should think that my husband is either unable or unwilling to furnish his house with what is necessary, but rather that it is both reason and equity that it should be furnished with that wherein (I think) I have so much interest. When your Lordship did me the honour to visit me, your Lordship did see the effects of a garison abode a full year. The lyk has been seen in Britane in half a days time; for riches may take the wings of the morning and fly to the wilderness; and none can say they shall be free when the sword goeth through a land: and the latter sufferers have no advantage of those on whom the calamitie begins, but a short enjoyment which soone is converted to the greater grief. It is very far against my mind to uret to your Lordship in such a strain; but all such friends as I thought fittest to employ being laid aside, and now I am not able to travel myself, being within a month of my time, I am forced to speak my mynd thus, after two full years silence. I mind no further to trouble any friend by solicitation; but if I shall not prevail with your Lordship with such plainness, I hope the Lord will direct me what to doe next. So, praying





the Lord to blis your Lordship, your Lady, and childreen, I resolve to continoue as becometh, my Lord,

Your Lordships most affectionatt neic and humble servantt,

JEANE LINDSAY.

I intrett your Lordship to presente my humble services to my Lady, and blissing to hir yongest sone.

For the right honorable and noble Earle, The Earle of Wemyss.

119. DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, to JEAN LINDSAY, LADY TORPHICHEN. His Lordship's answer. [Copy.]

Wemyss, 2 Februar 1654.

MADAM,—I haue receauid yours, and to ansure euiry particular therin I think itt not worthie of my peaines; nothing being signified therby but your ingratitude and folly.

I am, your seruant,

WEMYSS.

For my Lady Tarphichine.

120. JAMES, SIXTH LORD SINCLAIR, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. In prison in the Tower.

Tower, London, Agust 21, 1654.

MY LORD,—I receaued your Lordships with ane hundred pounds bill inclosed, which came verie seasonable; for if I had not come to the Tower, I should haue bene forct to goe to some vther prison, as my Lord Durie could haue shewen you. I perceauie there is yet resting for my daughter the 1654; if your Lordship can procure this, it will keepe me from some streights I am lykly to be driuen to. Mr. Gillespie and his wyfe hath bene verie earnest with the rulers here for some competencie for my daughter, and they haue Gen. Ma. Lamberts



promise for it; but if your Lordship will doe your neice and me the favor as to looke out my contract of mariage, and trye if the committie apoynted for the payment of forfeited person's debts will allow of it or not, freinds here thinkes that that may be more for her aduantage then anything shee can get from the councell here. I am confident my Lord Durie and Bogie will concurr with your Lordship in this; if Mr. Gilespie or his wyfe haue anie power with this committie, I am confident they will extend it for her behoofe. If euer I can be in a condition to doe your Lordship seruice I shall neyther be forgetfull nor vnthankfull for those great fauors your Lordship shewes me now in my distres. I intreat you that these lynes may present my humble seruice to my Ladie, and my best wishes to your Lordship, and all your familie. Soe I continue,

Your Lordships most affectionate brother and seruant,

SINCLARE.

For the right honorable the Earle of Weimes—thes.

121. W. DOULL, professor of eloquence at Saumur, to COLONEL WEMYSS. The education of his son.

Saumur, 30 October 1655.

MOST HONOURED SIR,—It's now about three weekes since your sone came to this towne, who wes recommended to mee both from Paris and by Monsieur Amyraut, professour in divinitie and principall off this Vniversitie. I am glad that such ane occasion has fallin out wherein I may be able to serue a person off your merites, and one off my owne cuntry. I finde by his instructions that yow desire he should employ his tyme, both in his studies and his exercises, fitting for a gentleman. Sir, yow may be confident that what seruice I am able to doe him shalbe carefully performed. Both he and Mr. Cathcart has giuen yow notice what those who are lodged with mee are accoustumed to pay a



year, wnder which I doe not tak any, which is 400 liures, or 40 pistoles, about 30 and odde pounds sterling, for dyet and lodging. Hee may be in some places for 4 or 5 pounds sterling lesse, but I beleue hee will not be so much looked after. Housoeuer, what yow ordaine shalbe obeyd, and what place so euer he bee in in this towne, I shall haue a care off him, and considder him as a persoune belonging to one of your merite, and one off my own nation. Yow shalbe pleased by your next to lett mee haue directions from yow concerning his education, and the course yow haue setled for the returning him money, according as he shall stand in need off it. In the meane while I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. DOULL,

Professour of Eloquence.

To the most honoured Collonel Weymis, for the present at Hambourg.

122. JOHN, SIXTH EARL OF ROTHES, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Permission to cut turf for a bowling-green.

Leslie, at nayn aclok, 3 October [16]57.

MY LORD,—Your Lordship enous I haue of a great uhayll bein intending to meack a boulin-grin, and last uick, when I had imployid sum of Sir Elexandir Gibsons seruants for casting the feall, it plesid on of your men to interupt them, and uhen hie uas tould they uear for me, hie sead it uas uith your Lordships uarant hie did it, bot in that I am ashourid hie uas laying; bot nou, if your Lordship can, uithout prejudising yourself, I shall intreat yow uill discharge your seruant from hindring anie mor. I am uirie with hacking, uich meacks me rest this day, bot I shall uerie sudinlie atend bothe my sisters, uhos humbell seruants I am, and unchengablie yours so long as I carie the taytill of

ROTHES.

For the right honorable the Earle of Weimys.

Indorsed by the latter : The E. Rothes lettir to me when Durie



did giue him libertie to cast in the communttie of the Caldcottes, 1 October 1657, and I did interrue itt till my Lord gott my libertie to doe itt.

123. ALEXANDER, EARL OF EGLINTON, to THE SAME. Bond to keep the peace required by General Monck.

Eglintoune, 23 August 1659.

MY NOBLE LORD,—I have received ane ordour, with ane new band, from the Generall, to be swbscruitt as it was formerly, quherin your Lordships name, with my Lord Wigtoune and Kingstounes ar insert as cawtiouneris, for my keiping peace to the Parliament and Commonwealth of England, which thei neid not to doe, by reasoune of my infirmitties and ould age, for God hes bound me to the peace; bot in respect to the Generalls desyre, I haue no will to refuse it, for I am much bound to his respect and kindnesse to me. And as for your Lordships securittie, ye shall receive ane band of releiff subscruitt by myselff and my sonne, for I shall be loth to desyre your Lordship to doe any thing to your prejudice; and if your Lordship be not content with this band which I send to yow, be pleased to drawe vp ane as your Lordship pleases, and I shall subscrib it, and send it to your Lordship, for I acknowledge myselff much bound to your Lordship for your former cowrtasies in subseryveing my former band. And quherin I can serve your Lordship, I shall be ready to my powre to doe it, and shall ever remaine,

My Lord, your Lordships most affectionnat and humble servant,

EGLINTOUN.

I shall be cairefull to gett back the ould band, that your Lordships name may be takne out of it, and intreattis your Lordship to rememeber my humble service to your noble Lady and to my Lady Balclewch.

For the right honnorabill the Earle of Wemes—thes.





124. JOHN, SEVENTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to THE SAME.

Sending his son to see some writs.

Halyrudhouss, the 21 of December 1660.

MY NOBLE LORD,—I haid gone ower my self and maid amends for my bygoing (which fault was not indeid purposly committed but by mis-informatione as I did showe yow), wer it not that I am informed my Lady Balclowch is not as yeit so fully recovered, but that companie might rather be a trowble then afford yow anie satisfacione. I have therfor sent ower my sone to looke for some wryts, heiring ther is lyke to be grypt debates for places at this Parliament; so I trust your Lordship will be pleased to let him have access to my wryts, which is all at present. With the proffer off my humble service to your good lady and all your other noble societie, I only adde that I am, my noble Lord, your Lordship's most humble servant,

J. E. SOUTHERLAND.

I grant the receat of my fathers aboue named wreats the tuentie-fourth of December 1660 yeirs.

G. STRATHNAVER.

125. ARCHIBALD, EARL OF ANGUS, to THE SAME.

Hoping Lady Mary may recover.

Halyrudhouse, 11 September [*circa* 1660].

MY LORD,—I haue receiued yours, and am uery glad to know that your Lordship is in som small hopes yet of our titty Mary's recouery. I intend to see your Lordship, if I can, the end of this week, God willing. In the mean tym receiue that of Glennegys waird, which I had besyd me. Thus my seruice presented to my Lady and all your good company, I rest, your Lordships humble seruant,

For the Earle of Weymss.





126. SIR PATRICK WEMYSS, Dublin, to THE SAME.  
Parliament at Dublin.

Dublin, the 7th of Marche 1661.

RIGHT HONORABIL AND MY MOST DEIR LORD,—I beseiche your Lordshipp to pardoun my silence all this tyme, wiche wes occasioned by the distractiones and vncertantie of the affairis of this kingdome; but now thair being sum progres maid for a setlment, I will now in breiff give your Lordshipp ane account of the present condition of this kingdome. His Maiestie gaive ordour to call the conventioun wiche wes conveyned heir the last yeir, and the same persones that wes befor. We haive bene heir this sevin weikis, and this day we wer disolued to give way to a Parlment wich is declared by his Maiestie to sitt down the aught day of Maij nixt, wiche doith reioce the people of this kingdom very much. The reasoun his Maiestie did call this conventioun wes that we should provyde moneyes to pay the armye till the Parlment sitt down and mak provisioun in the future, and to setle the kingdom, and to confirme the estaittis of eviry intirist, English, Scottis, and Irishe. In the mean tyme this conventioun hes givin his Maiestie two poll moneyes, wich I am confident will amount into neir on hundreth thousand pound sterling, and it wes granttit with much cheirfulnes and willingnes. Evirie on ar going home to thair cuntrye and ar preparing for a new electioun, wiche thair wilbe much stryving about. All indeavouris wilbe vsed that noe Irishe man may be chosin. No man as yit can devyn what effectis this Parlment will produce, but I houp God Almightye will turn all thingis for the best to His glory. And now, my deir Lord, give me leive to lett your Lordshipp knowe what concernes my selff. I did acquent your Lordshipp that his late Maiestie haid givin me a grant aughtene yeiris past, and his now Maiestie did confirm the same to me, and I wes reddy to pas it vnder the grit seall of this kingdom, and sum of the officeirs that servid his



Maiestie befor the cessatioun of Irland, namlie, my Lord of Ardes, and vther my cuntrymen, invying my grant, petitioned the Lordis Justices that it should not pas till his Maiesties forder plesour wer knowin. I did vpoun this stopp, send my soun James to Court; they send thair agentis lykewayes to his Maiestie; but my soun hes soe careyd his busines, with Godis assistance, that his Maiestie hes givin me a secound confirmatioun, with command to the Lordis Justices to pas his royall grant to me vnder the grit seall, notwithstanding of any ordour or grant whatsoever. The obstructioun wich wes givin me in my busines hes provid to my advantage, for I expecttit that his Maiesties grant to me wald not haive bene worth me fyve hundreth pound a yeir, but as my soun hes ordorid his busines it wilbe to me and myn als much moir by the yeir. My soun James hes careid him selff soe circumspectlie and discretlie in following of it as he hes done, that he shall reape the benefeitt of it when I am gon, for I will setle it vpoun him. I haive alreddy conferd my company vpoun him. My soun Tam he hes now takin a resolutioun to follow his booke, soe I intend, God willing, this spring to send him to the Inns of Court to study the law; God hes givin him wit and ingenewitie, and I houp he will mak a goode lawyer. And now, my Lord, I haive givin your Lordship ane account of my owin conditioun, wich I am very confident wilbe weill pleasing to your Lordshipp, and now, my Lord, I humbly begg that your Lordshipp wilbe pleased to honor me soe much that I may heir from your Lordshipp frequentlie of your proceidingis in your Parlment, and efter I doe heir from your Lordshipp, yowr Lordshipp shall eviry fortnight, God willing, haive ane account, by the best informatioun I can gett, how the busines of this kingdome doith goe; and now, my Lord, I haive put a sufficient truble vpoun your Lordshipp, but I houp for your Lordships pardoun. And to conclude, I humbly beseich your Lordshipp to present my humblest respect and service to the best of lades, wich is your Lordships most nobill Lady. God blis your



Lordshipp and hir Ladyship, and all your noble childrin; God increaseth the number of them, and send your Lordshipp all the honor and hapines imaginable, wiche shalbe the daylie prayeris of, my deir Lord,

Your Lordships most humblist servant and affectionat kinsman,

P. WEMYSS.

127. GEORGE MONCK, DUKE OF ALBEMARLE, to THE SAME.

Wardship of the Countess of Buccleuch.

Cockpitt, 23<sup>o</sup> April 1661.

MY LORD,—I received your Lordshippes letter concerning my Lord Rothesse, and I cannott beleive that hee would doe soe vnhandsome a thinge as to desire to have the wardshippe alone without your Lordshippe; but rather beleive itt was done by some persons heere for some other ends. And if your lady and you can prevaile with my Lord Rothesse to make itt his desire to his Majesty in a letter to joyne your Lordshippe with him, I shall present itt to his Majesty, and vse my indeavours to gett itt granted; butt without that I doubt itt will nott bee done. I shall desire your Lordshippe to bee assured that in any thinge that lies in my power I shall bee ready to expresse myself,

Your Lordshippes very humble servant,

*Albemarle*

For the right honorable David, Earle of Wemyss, these, att Edinburgh.

128. ANN MONCK, wife of General Monck, to MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS. Her Ladyship's visit to London.

Cockpitt, 2d April 1662.

DEARE MADDAM,—I had writt to yow longe before now, but I waited till my Lord came. I haue heard your Ladyship will bee here this





springe, and I shall bee glad to see yow : and I assure your Ladyshipp, if that I knew which way to bee servisable to yow, non should bee more willinge : but I beleeeue itt will bee very convenient for your Ladyshipp to come vp ; and I beleeeue my Lord your brother will acquaint yow with soe much. I haue nothings more att this tyme to trouble your Ladyshipp with, but onely my kinde respects to my Lord Wemys, my Lady Beccelough, and the rest of your relations, with my hearty prayers for youre Ladyshipp, and rest,

Deare Maddam, your Ladyshipp's affectionate servant,



The Generall presents his servis to your Ladyshipp and my Lord, with the rest of your relation.

For the much honoured the Countes of Weemyes, these—att the Weeyems.

129. SIR WILLIAM FLEMING, London, to THE SAME. About the marriage of the Duke of Monmouth.

Whythall, the 15 of June [16]62.

MADAME,—I haue receaved your Ladyships letter with the inclosed to his Majestie, and doeth find his Majesties resolution in the particular, and doeth also send his Majesties ansuer, which your Ladyship will be pleased to receaue. I haue impaired to his Majestie the heads of your Ladyships letter, particularly the waired of mariage granted to my Lord your brother, and after I had told him the inco[n]veniencies that might fall vpon the estat of Bucluch if his Majestie did not tak sum course to satisfie my Lord otherwayes, his Majestie was pleased to show me that he would haue a singular caire of that, so that your



Ladyship may cary yourself according to his Majesties ansuer, and if your Ladyship will be pleased to command me any further, I shall still performe it faithfully and with all secrecie, for as yet my Lord your brother speaks nothing of it [to] me; yet I beleaue his Majestie hes impaired the bussiness to him. I was forced to send this by the post, having no other occasion, besyds if it had been stayed longer it might have been of ane old daitt. All I can trouble your Ladyship further is that I shall ever think it my honour to aprove my self,

Madame, your Ladyships most humble servant,

W. FLEMING.

For the right honorable Lady the Countesse of Wemys.

130. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to DAVID, EARL OF WEMYSS, her husband. As to her speedy return from London.

Strand, 10 October [*circa* 1662].

MY DIEREST HEART,—Yestirday I hed your Setordays letir, which was most welcom. This morning at 3 in the morning Hendry Makie cam to town. He sent for Niell Muntgomry, bot only told him ye wor all uiell, and that ye was to ryd yestirday and end all. I am also gled all is doon for my brothirs caus, for it wold haue doon him urong if it hed bien delayd. Nixt uiek uill put ane end to all I can expect, and I canot say I expect much, so that I howip about the twenty of this to be moving hom, or the 22, as the litle busines I haue uill permit, bot my doghtir is uery uiell, so that I may leue hir as soon as I am redy to go. I sell uret nixt uiek when I uill sertenly com of.—I am, yours, M. LESLY.

My Lady wold a had me draun a pecktour on this papr, bot ther is not so much merienes at my heart. My Lord, I did resave your Lordships letir, and most let my Lady go, tho it is verie far aganst the heart of, my Lord, your most obedient daughtir,

ANNA BUCCLEUCH.

For the Earll of Wemyss, at Edinbruch.



131. JOHN CARNEGIE, EARL OF ETHIE, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. The Laird of Craig's debt.

Ethie, the 1 of Agoust 1663.

MY MOST NOBLL LORD,—I resaued your Lordships letter of the 27 of Joulie, and I retourne to your Lordship most houbll and hairtie thankes for your grayt kyndnes therin expresed, and I wish uith all my hairt that it might be in my pouer to giue reall proufe of my thankfulnes. In the meantym I dar say ther uas neuer any deshendet of your Lordships hous uho desayers mor your Lordships honor and prosperite of your hous then I doue, and I think it my graytest honor that my uirthie mother uas a doughter of your hous. It hes pleased your Lordship to let me knoue that my Lord Dindie is uilling to sell land to paye the Laird of Craiges debt, and that non is so eabll to by it as I am, and therfor intreats me to by the land, that your Lordship and other creyditors may be setisfied, and hie to haue a liuelehood. For ansuer to that, I creauie pardone to shoue your Lordship that my abilitie is not so as is oup to your Lordships; alueyes I am uerie sensible of your Lordships fauor, and I shall speak uith my eldest soone, in uhoes persone I haue deuoluit all the debt uas auen to me, uhom I expect uerie shortlie, for hie is noue at Arrall; alueyes, I doue asheuer your Lordship, I shall doe all that lyes in my pouer for your Lordship's satisfaction, and I mynd to deall with Patrik Skote to by the rest of the baronrie of Rosie, that your Lordship maye be contentet, for it is told me that your Lordship is onlie infest in the baronrie of Rosie, and I shall neuer mak any bargine uith my Lord Dindie, except your Lordship be satisfied; and creauing your Lordship's pardone for this troubl, I am,

My Lord, your Lordship's most affectionat and humbll seruant,

ETHIE.

For the right honorabll the Earell of Weims—the[se].



132. JOHN, EARL OF ROTHES, to The SAME. That he was overwhelmed with business.

Munday morning, 20 July 1664.

MY LORD,—The inclosid ceam to my hands last wick, bot my houp to haue sin you in toun ocasionid my delay in sending it you so sun as it ceam; when I am so hapie as to uait on you, uie shall tack of it. I haue no taym to eat or drinck, so much am I croudied uith busines, uich I houp uill plid my pardon for not ureating to my sister, to uham I present my most humbill seruiies, and to my suit sun in laue, and giue me liue to beayg the ffauer of your Lordship to send me ouer to-morou the len of my Lord Broghils Romans, calied Parthinsa. I had it ons from you befor, uho am your brother and seruant, ROTHES.

For the Erle of Weymsse—thes.

133. JOHN, EARL OF CRAWFORD AND LINDESAY, to THE SAME.  
The first ship laden with salt at Methill.

Struther, 1t Maii 1669.

MY LORD,—Béfor I had your letter the hour was past that ye did apoynt the cocket to be sent, bot emediatly after I got it I wreat and sent an exprese to Johne Lindesay to send it, and befor this I hope it is delyvered, and ye wilbe pleased to giue me notish when the ship goes out.

I was absolutly resolued to haue kissed your Lordship's and my Lady's hands this day att the Weimes, and that notwithstanding my son and dochter Hadintons, and several of ther childring and relations, coming heer yisternight. Bot all yesterday, this last night and this morning, I find not myself in a condition to trauel euen so short a way. If ye do not heast ouer ye shalbe waited on by, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble seruant,

CRAFURD & LINDESAY.





Be pleased to lett these present my humble seruice to my Lady. My wyfe sends hir to yow boith. I haue sent a letter with David Weimes to Mr. Lucas the seidman, who will serwe yow better than any in all England.

For the Earle of Weimes—thes.

Indorsed in the Earl of Wemyss hand: This is the first letter anent the first shipe that was leade in my herbure of Methill with colle or salt, shoe being loding with 40 chalders of salt, Weimyss mesure, one 1 May 1669.

134. DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, to ISABEL BALFOUR, LADY RUTHVEN, his sister-in-law. The disposition of his estate.

Wemys, 16 November [16]71.

MADAM,—I haue receivd one from your Ladyship of a strang streane. I hop ye think me not a foulle, that I know notte houe to dispone one my affeaires and esteate except ye giue me aduice. I wish ye guid your oune well; it becomes not you nor none to meaddille in that affeaire till ye be called to itt; what I have done is just and honorabill. And for that fallse assertione in youris lettir, to giue itt to my oldest doughters childrine, fealling my oune, I uill assoure you ane Wemys most have all befor any other name, for I uill neuer putt my housse out of that antient name for any other in the world, and if I head intended it othirvays I will assoure your Ladyship it should not be to any that is come of my Lord Angus, who was a fallse man to me, nor to any that is come of your neice, whoe did betray ther trust to me often; but cheffy, ye know when I intrusted my neice Edzells doughter to them, they did disposses one hir and betraye ther trust to me in marieing her to my Lord Torphichen without my knowledg. His Lordship was fully a maeche to hir, if my consent head beine required to itt, which was not. If at that time I head done liek



a father, and a father that had done a gritter dutie to her nor ever was done to any in the lande, I should neuer haue suffred her come [in] my sight. But shoe hes abuissid my goodnes often since. And or my sones fitt uas could or his br[e]ath out, shoe uas a working hir 'beasse ends and calumniatting me wher euer shoe went amongst hir oun creue, lick ane ungriatt false doughter. So, madam, meaddule not yourself with that affeaire any more of his who is most desirous to remaine as formerly, madam,

Your Ladyships most affectionat brother and seruant,

WES.

Madam, that gentillman ye name in yours, ye most know that his gritte grandfather and myne war full brethers, so it appears ye ar wery ewill informed of my freinds and name, and he is a worthie and deseruing gentillman as is of any name in Scotland.

For my Lady Reuthven.

Indorsed: Copie to my Lady and hir within itt to me of 15 November 1671.

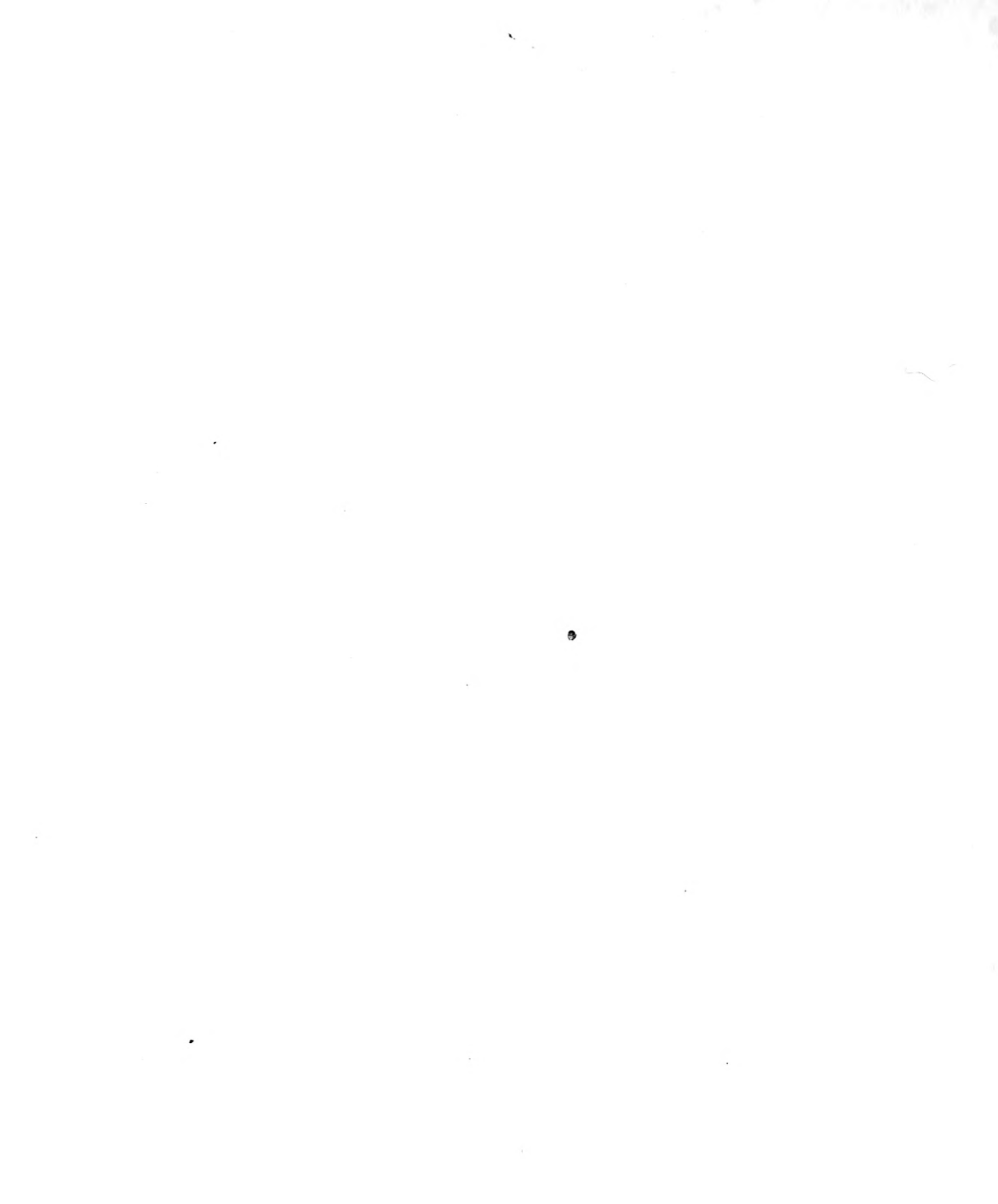
135. *LADY JEAN WEMYSS, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to ANNA, DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH.* Complaining of the settlement of her father's estate.

22 June 1672.

MADAM,—I desing'd myself the honor to waite on your grace at my first coming heer, but was divers tim's disapointed, your grace being then abroad, yet that had not defeated my resolution of kissing your hands if I had not found by your own looks a coldnes that gave me suficient inteligence that my visite wold not bee very acceptable, which made me resolve to check my inclinations rather then give your grace the least of trouble, yet I am not willing to seem guilty in your eyes



as if I had done some wrong, whereas I am made the sufferer. Therefore, madam, I must beg your graces pardon to vindicate myself of any unjust aspersions may have reach't your ears against me in those transactions have been lately made in my fathers family; for in 6 weeks after the death of your dear brother and myne, my father came to Edinburgh and advised with lawiers how to conveye his estate to Collonell Wemyss sonn, failing of my sister and her heirs, which was kept as a mystery from me till it came the length of the writers and clerks chambers to be presented to the Kings Exchequer. Then did I with griefe behold what I would not formerly credite, upon which I had my recourse to my father requesting he might not cut of his own posterity from his house, but that failing of my sister and the heirs of her bodie, my eldest sonn might succeed into his family, who was in a capacity to keep it in the name, and to bring a considerable alyae and interest to it. But my Lord was so preoccupied by Sir James Wemyss, who's insinuations had so gained him that he gave no eare to my request. I told his Lordship that I grudg'd not my sister and her heirs should be preferred to me and myne, but that the sonn of a stranger should be preferred before me (for so I may call Sir James in regard of my relation), and I and myne cut of from his house, was a thing so contrary to the laws of God and nature that I hope't he would not doe so strange an act, which would undoubtedly precipitate me into my grave, and would highly disoblidge all the noble families that are related to me or my children. But alas my father was too strongly perswaded to that unkyndly action to have any regarde to my reasons, which unkyndnes gave me so just a resentment of griefe as plung'd me into a dangerous sicknes, during which time that signature of my fathers was presented to the Exchequer, which my eldest sonn's agent, by the order of the Marques of Douglase and others of my sonns friends, protested against (my husband being then in Southerland), and I knew nothing of it till it was done, the Sir James made my



father beleeve that it was I authorized it to be done, therby to irritat him against me. I confess, madam, I found it my duety to sollicite my father in that affaire, which if I had neglectid I could not have been faithfull to the trust reposed in me by my deceased husband, nor to the duety incumbent from a mother to her children. But after my suit was denied by my father, my only recourse was to thee Almighty God, who is a father of the fatherless, and a judg of the widow, yea he hes promised to plead ther cause, upon whom I will depend for what concerns me and myne, hoping he will give them his blissing which makes rich and he adds no sorow therwith, and to me I trust hee will give the santified use of so sharp a tryall as the unkyndnes of nearest relations is, for I have peace in this, that I never deserved so hard a measour at any of ther hands. I know my sonn and his friends did write letters, and used all faire means to delay that bussines till the Duk of Hamilton might have spoke with my father about it, but all motions of that kynd was rejected. Now, madam, I beseeke yow, make but my case your own, and your grace will then judg how just my request was, the denyall of which was so grivous to mee (because of its unkyndnes) that the malincolie I contracted by it and the death of my dear brother, hes so affected my weak bodie as put a necessity on me of coming heer to drink the watters for my health, yet this very thing is so sinistrously represented to my father as if I had come to pition the king for my children's interest; tho hitherto I have forborn to desyre the honor of kissing his Majesties hands and the Queen's, least it might be so interprited. Yow see, madam, how much I am traduced tho' inocent, and I hope the Lord who is righteous will regard it, who ordain'd thee daughters of Zelophead to succeed in ther fathers inheritance even befor ther unckls, much more befor so remot a relation as is now substitute in the place of my children, which I trust to suport with patience as from the Lord, who permits many things that he doth not approve. The desyre I have to justifie myself





in the esteem of so knowing and vertous a persone as yow are, hes encourag'd me to trouble your grace with so long a narration, which I hope your goodnes will pardon from,

Madam, your graces most humble and obedient servant,



136. ANNA, DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH, to LADY JANE WEMYSS, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND. In answer to her letter. Indorsed: Whitehall, 24th June 1672. Copy.

MADAM,—I confese your lettr was verie much unexspekt'd by me, for I can never belive my Lord Wemys will be gultie of anie acktion that will give just caws of trubll to anie person. I know him to be so good and worthie. And since I find that what has bin laitly dun by him brings you so much afficktion, I think your Ladyship ought to confort your self as well as you can, and, without dout, nothing can be a betr argiment for your consulation then to consider that what may be dun in iustice can be no resonable ground of sorow. Your Ladyship semes to tak notice of a coldnes in my behaivour to you. I will never be guilty of disrespeckt to anie of your quaility, nor will I ever forget the obligation I have to my Lord Wemys, whom I shall ever respeckt as my oun father; and I sopus yowr Ladyship is not ignorant of the great dutie due to parants. As you puit your trust in God Almighty's mercys, I dout not but you will indevor to deserve them by obeaying his comands, and res[p]eckting my Lord your father, which will oblige me to be your[s],

A. BUCCLUCE.



137. *LADY JANE WEMYSS, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND*, to *ANNA, DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH*. That she had not accused her father of unkindness.

26 June 1672.

MADAM,—I received the honour of yours, which oblidges me to give your grace the trouble of a returne to undeceive yow in that construction your grace puts upon my letter which I wrote to vindicate myself of the unjust asperssions some cast on me; but that I caled my father unjust yow will not find in all my letter, indeed, I regrait what he hes done of late as ane act of a strange nature, for its unkyndnes not only to me, but to himself. That he who hes done so much for the good of his family should be induced to give it from his own posterity (failling of my sister and hers), is a thing which amuses all that hears it, tho', for my parte, I reckon it not as ane affect of his own inclination, but the importunat perswasions of others, for ther selfe ends, for I am sure any that truely loves him wold not wish that his posterity should be cut off from his house; yet all he hes done is not so powerfull as to doe away that respect and honour I have for a father whom I have ever so dearly lov'd. And I trust God, who hes taught me to submit to so crose a providence, will also give me a comfortable outgate. Wishing your grace much happiness,

I am, madam, your graces most humble and obedient servant,

JEANE WEMYSS.

138. *JOHN, EARL OF ROTHES*, to *LADY MARGARET LESLIE, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS*, his sister. Refusal to meddle between Lady Strathnaver and her father.

November the 29, [*circa* 1672].

DEAR SISTER,—I nid not repeat to you uhat past in Ex[chackier] the last Fraydie, your Lord hauing tould you alredie, and I haue a great deall



to say in giuing you an acount of an unexpektid rancuntier I had on Munday last. Being at diner with my Lord Dumfermling, uher most of the good cumpanie in toun uear, I reseued this inclosid from my Ladie Strenauer, with tuo letiers inclosid, which uear your Lords letier to hir, and the returne which shie intendied. I tould hir jentillman uho broght the letiers that sins my Ladie uas indisposied, I wold ueat upon hir, for I did not intend to imbreas the imploaymint which it simed shie intendid to ingadg me in. So imediatlie I cald for my coche and went to hir hous and tould hir that I had reseued hir letier, bot did desayr to be exqusied, for I wold not midell betuixt hir and hir father. I thought my Lord Weimys was frie to dispos of his isteat as hie jeudgied fit, and for my selffe I wold asist him, and serue him in his own uay as hie should intend the disposill of it. Shie sead shie knou nothing of uhat uas dun in Exchackier, and that it uas dun by ordir from the Marquies of Duglies, and she sead that uhat my Lord uas to du in fauors of my nis shie uas content uith, bot to abandon hir sun shie behufd to say uas uerie hard, and I shall not repeat all, for as I wold not so much as rid hir letier to your Lord, nor send it, so shall I neuer be the ocasioun, or axesorie to waydin the breat[c]he betuixt no nir relations. Shie tuck my refyousall uerie uncayndlie, bot I shall be the betier eabell to ber it that I neuer intend to trubell hir mor. Sir Johne Cunyengam is to ureat to my Lord this day consernieng his busines. I uishe hie may hestin his returne that busines may be ueall dun. Meack my apoladgie to my dear Lord that I du not ureat, for I am in great heast, and present my seruies to all your good companie, so adeou.

Tell my Lord the salt busines gos breaffie on at London, and Mr. Mill du his busines. You may rid my letier to my Lord.

For the Cowntesse of Weemes.



139. ARCHIBALD, EARL OF FORFAR, to his grandfather, DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Complaining of being omitted in the entail of Wemyss.

Edinburgh, December 5, 1672.

MY LORD,—I am so troubled at the report of your Lordship's displeasure against my mother for a supposed fault, that I finde myself obliged to vindicat her by giving your Lordship a trew accounte of the matter, for it was indeed some of my fathers relations who were amazed with the reports in town of your Lordships having preferred a stranger next to my aunt and the heirs of her bodie, and had wholly secluded me from having any place in the intailment of your estate, which induced them to appoint a lawyer to seek up that paper to see, as is usuall in like cases. But for my part, my Lord, I rather it had never been done before your Lordship had been so offended, and I had seen my mother suffer so much upon that account; for if the Lord give me grace to walk in his ways, he has provided for me a competancie in this world: yea, I know all that my mother was requesting of your Lordship was only a testimonie of your kyndnes to have the heirs of her bodie brought in the intailment after Lady Margaret and her heirs, and that with a speciall regarde to your family and name, which is so usuall a kindnes from a father to a daughter that your Lordships ordering it otherwise makes the world talk strange things both of your Lordship and us, which is the main thing weighs with me, so that I am resolved (God willing) to follow the practice of my predecessors and seek my fortune in a foraine land before I bee ane eye witnes to such ane affront at home; for that estate my father provided to me will, by the blissing of God, make me live lyke a gentelman any where, yet it cannot secure me in Scotland from beeing lookt upon as a slighted person if your Lordship continue your signature as it is





now formed. So, my Lord, if you would not have me be a stranger in my native land, put me, I beseech you, in the next place to my aunt and the heirs of her bodie; not but that I think if God bless my Lady Margaret a few years I hope he will make her a mother of so many brave sonns and daughters as will make that I request for but a complement of kyndnes, yet, even that is to me of great value, because it bears in the bosome of it a mark of your Lordships favour, and so will give me a confidence to set up my rest at home amongst my friends after I have viewed the world a litle. And believe it, my Lord, there is none who shall succeed you in your fortune, that can honor you with a more profound respect than he who is,

My Lord, your Lordships most affectionat humble and obedient servant,

FORFAR.

For the Earle of Wemyss.

140. ALEXANDER, SECOND EARL OF KINCARDIN, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Entail of Wemyss.

Whitehall, 7 February 167 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

MY LORD,—I had the honour of your letter of the 27th Januar, and did let my Lady Duchesse of Monmouth know what you say in it, who, I assure you, understands very well both her owne affairs and all other things, and is very sensible of what you say. I beleve there is no fear of what you apprehend from your daughter by Duke Hamilton's means. Though she should be so foolish as to desyre him, yet I beleve he will not be so foolish as to medle in it. The King hardly refuseth to speake to any gentleman that desyres it, but I beleve many speake to him as acceptably as his Grace doth. The partie may bray as they please, but if they have cause to do so in the end, say



I have no skill. If any opportunity offer that I can serve yow, I shall imbrace it with great pleasure, for I am very sincerely,

My Lord, your most humble and most faithfull servant,

KINCARDIN.

For the Earle of Wemys, at Wemys.

141. ARCHIBALD, NINTH EARL OF ARGYLL, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Sending for leather guns.

Edinburgh, 27 July [16]75.

MY LORD,—I am now pursuing you to be in your debt. If I had knowen of your Lordships being in toune, I would haue made good my promise to giue you my band for that money I promised; and it shall be done as shoone as I meete with Mr. Sterwike.

I haue now sent the bearer for some of your leather guns. I think they will be proper for our borlines. I will take my Lord Bruntillands aduice of the sizes, and I desire his directions for using of them, and I shall be your debittoure for the price you condeshend on.

I am, my Lord, your faithfull and humble seruant,

ARGYLL.

I, Robert Ker, seruant to the Earell of Argyll, grantes me to haue receved from the Earell of Wemyse, by order and for the wse of the forsead Earell of Argyll, sewein peaceises of lyght ordnance, comenly calld leather gwnes wedilledes, fowre peaceise caring twa pwnd ball, and three peaceises caring fowre pwnd ball, which sead sewene gwnes I grant the reseat therof, as witnes my hand at the Castell of Brwntyllin, the 30 of Jwley 1675.

ROBERT KER.

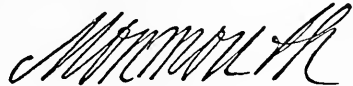
For the Earle of Weemes.



142. JAMES, DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH, to MARGARET,  
COUNTESS OF WEMYSS.

London, 25 October [16]77.

MADAM,—You can not inmadgine how troubed I am that you should believe it is possible for mee to forgitt you. I doe asur you that would bee one of the last things I should euer doe. But you haue draune upon your selfe sutch a troubell that I can not inmadgine how you will euer gitt off of it; for now their will not bee a post goe for Scotland but will haue one of my letters with it, to show you how much I am, and euer will be, your most obedient and humble seruant,



For the Countess of Wemyss.

143. ANNA, DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH, to her  
Mother, MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS. To go to  
Holland to see the Princess of Orange.

Whithall, September 28, [1678.]

MADAM,—My Lord Melvill is so soone to leve this place that I should not have wrettn this day by the post but to acquaint your Ladyship that the Duchess has comanded me to waitt on her to Holland, to see the Princess of Orange. I kenew not of this jurnay till Thursday night, to lait to wrett. Wee are to go next Mundy or Tusday, and if the uind contineus fair, we shall be littill mor then 24 hours on the jurnay, it being all by watter. Wee shall stay ther whilst the king is at Neumarkett. That will be about a fortnight. Ther gos only the Duchess of Buckingham and the Duchess of Richmond, and I, besids



Lady Ann, and my Lady Peetrbrowgh, and my Lady Heryett Hid, my Lord Ossarey, and my Lord Rooscomon. Wee are to ley in a hous nigh the Princess, but verie preevitly, which thy are used to in that cuntray. So wee are not to be taken notice of as we go about. As soon as ever wee arive, I shall give your Ladyship ane account. I intend to gett my Lady Fox to make now and then a visett to my children, to see how they are. I belive she has mor skill then my self, and I am sure she will take care to send to the docktr, which I hope in God they will not need. But if they should be sick, she will send in time, which I dare not trust only sarvants with.

I am, madam, your Ladyships obedent dutifull child,

Twelve Letters from ANNA, DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH and MONMOUTH, to her stepfather, DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. 1663-1679.

144. (1.) Sending him a precious stone.

Strand, 25 Agost 1663.

MY LORD,—I wold wret muche oftener to you, bot that my Lady's leter serves ous bothe. I hope your Lordship will never dout of my kendnes to your Lordship. I shall ever be sencable of your respect and love to me. Resave thes tokene, and wer it for me. It is worth





litle, bot it is rar ; it is ane flint ston. The kinge wears the foloue of it, and I hope ye will wear it in remembrenc of

Your Lordship's most affectionet doghter and servant,

ANNA BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH.

My serves to my sistr Lady Margrat.

For the right honorablle the Earll of Wemyss.

145. (2.) Her brother Elcho taking her to the play.

Strand, September 22, [c. 1663.]

MY LORD,—I could not bot let you knou of ane verie fine galant I have gotn senc the Duke want weth the King, to carie me to the play. It is my brother Elho. Hi dos love them verie well, and verie oft wi do wish your Lordshep weth ous. Remembr my serves to my sistr Lady Margrat, and ever estim me,

My Lord, your Lordshep's most obedent daughtr,

ANNA BUCCLEUCH.

I do wish your Lordshep war hir, that you might kep my Lady weth me all thes wentr, for shie dos intend to go much to soun.

For the Earll of Wemyss.

146. (3.) His love to his Countess and her family.

Chisuick, Jouly 23 [no year].

MY LORD,—I have wretn to my Lady desayering her not to be to much affecket, bot it is mor in your pour to do ; and I am shour non nids to bid you, for everie bodie knous your love to her and al hers, which obliges me to be,

My Lord, your most obedent daughtr and humbl servant,

ANNA BUCCLEUCH.

I hop my Lady is well in her helth, and my dier brother and sistr.

For the Earll of Wemyess in Fif, Scotland.



## 147. (4.) Her affection for her Stepfather.

Whethall, March 29, 1665.

MY LORD,—I could not let this occasion pas without wretn to your Lordship. I wold not negleckt it so long, bot I was afred to be troblsom to you if I had wretn as often as I had a mynd to do. For I desyr often to pot your Lordship in mynd of me, for non can thenk of anie bodi mor then I do of you. I will give your [Lordship] no mor trobl at this tim, bot to say that whill I live I shall ever be,  
My Lord, your Lordships most affectionet daught'r and homble servant,

AN : BUCCLEUCH.

Be plesed to remember my serves to my dear brother and sister.

For the Earell of Wemyss.

## 148. (5.) Affection for her brother.

Whethall, May 10, 1665.

MY LORD,—I resaved you[r] Lordships letr, and I was veri glad to have one from you. I am glad to hir that my litle brothr is so fin a man. I hope to se him a brave man as anie in the world. I hop you will pardon me for writin so short a lettr : bot I have no tim bot to say that I am,

My Lord, your Lordships most obedent daught'r and servant,

ANNA BUCCLEUCH AND MON[MOUTH].

For the Earle of Wemyss.

## 149. (6.) Wishing soon to hear from him.

Salesberi, Septembr 11, 1665.

MY LORD,—It is a gret wheyll since I hard from your Lordship, bot I hop it will not be so longe again, for it is verie much satisfaction to me



always when I hir from your [Lordship]. I hop my brother is in good helth, and at this tim I will give youe no mor trubl, bot that I am,

My Lord, your Lordships most affenot daughttr and humbll servant,

ANNA BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH.

I hop in God that you and I shall be as moeri as ever wi wass.

For the Earle of Wemyss.

150. (7.) A present to her father-in-law.

Tunbrig, Jouli 19, 1666.

MY LORD,—I have resaved your letr of the 10 of Jouli, and I should be sorie if you ever douted my remmimbring of your Lordship. I wret a letr to you which I niver had ane ansour of. Ther was no bosinis innt. I feir it was lost, for your Lordship dous yous to be so kind as to ansour al my lettrs. I am ashemed that my Lady and your Lordship should thank me for so pour a present as that I sent you wass. I will not give you anie mor trubll at this tim then to ashour you that as long ass I live I shall always be,

My Lord, your Lordship's obedent daughttr and humbll sarvant,

ANNA BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH.

I am my dear brother and sistrs most humbll sarvant.

For the Earlle of Wemyss.

151. (8.) Hoping he would write to her.

Whethall, October 11, 1666.

MY LORD,—I resaved your letr this wick, and wass verie glad of it, for I was afrayd you had mad a resolousion not to wret to me; and nou



I hop again that I shall hear somtims from you, which will be a verie great satisfation to her who shall allweys be,

My Lord, your most affectionat and obedent daught'r,

ANNA BUCCLEUCH AND MONMOUTH.

For the Earle of Wemys.

152. (9.) Her brother, the bonniest little man.

Whithall, Novembr 21, [16]66.

MY LORD,—I resaved your Lordship's letr, and I shall not fail to do what you bid me in it, as I shall always obay you in everie thing. My wankle tels me that my brother is gron the boniest litle man that hi ever did se, and I am exstremly glad to hear it. I hop in God that hi shall bi a confort to your Lordship and my Lady, when you are both a hunder yirs olod. My Lord is your most humbll servant, and I should be glad to shou hou much I am,

My Lord, your Lordship's most affectionat and obednt dawght'r,

A. BUCCLEUCH.

For the Earlle of Wemys.

153. (10.) Captain Wemyss.

Whithall, Novembr 14, 1674.

MY LORD,—I was verie glad to resave a letrr from you. It is so long since I hade one, I was afrayd your Lordship would not writt to me again. I do not deserve the thanks you are pleas'd to give me for Capten Wemyss. I am sure if I could I would a dun his busines for him, or anie you recomend to,

My Lord, your Lordship's must faithfull humbll sarvant,

A. BUCLEUCH.

For the Earlle of Wemyss.





154. (11.) That he might command any that belonged to her.

Whithall, January 21, 167<sup>8</sup>.

MY LORD,—I was verie glade to resave your lettr, and to find you are in good helth. You may freely comand anie that belongs to me, and Sinkler has promist all deligence in your service, which I am sure he will parform, tho I hope I shall never give you any trubll, yitt I could not but be glade to read your kind expre[ss]ion to me, tho it was not the firstt, but I dare assur your Lordship that non of them shall ever be forgotn by,

My Lord, your Lordship's most faithfull and humbll sarvant,

A. BUCCLEUCH.

For the Earlle of Wemyss.

155. (12.) Her charter-chest at Wemyss.

Richmond, May 29, 1679.

MY LORD,—The reasone I give you this trubll now is to give you my most humbll thanks for your great kindnes in letting my charter chist be keptt at the Wemyss. It could not be so saiff in anie other place, and I assure your Lordship I do verie often wish my self ther, that I might be so hapie as to see my best frinds in that place, wher I have bine so well and so merey. I shall not at this time say anie mor, but to assure you that I am,

My Lord, your most affectinot humbll sarvant,

A. BUCCLEUCH.

For the Earell of Wemyss.

[Indorsed by David, second Earl of Wemyss: "The Duke of Buccleuch and Monmouth cam to Edinburgh one 18 of June 1679 as Genrall aganst the rebells in the West."]<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Six other letters from the Duchess of Buccleuch and Monmouth to her stepfather, David, second Earl of Wemyss, are printed in

"The Scotts of Buccleuch," vol. i. pp. 422, 424, and vol. ii. pp. 367-369.



Fourteen letters from JAMES SHARP, Archbishop of St. Andrews, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, and from the latter to the former, 1664-1678.

156. (1.) JAMES SHARP, Archbishop of St. Andrews, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Commission on the Universities.

Edinburgh, 26th Juli 1664.

MY LORD,—Whereas the Kings Majestie has given commission under the great seall to some select persons (of which number your Lordship is one) for visiting of the Vniversities within this kingdome for the ends specified in the said commission, and they who kept the first dyet of meeting, which was the second Twesday of March last, have appoynted that these persons who ar in the division for visiting of the Vniversity of St. Andrews should meet and conveen at the city of St. Andrews, the second Twesday of August nixt, with continuation of dayes. Therefore, these ar to advertise your Lordship of that meeting the said day and place, and to entreat your Lordships presence and assistance, which will be acceptable service to the King and the publique, and putt an obligation wpon

Your Lordships humble servant,

S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

For the right honorable the Earle of Weemyss.

157. (2.) DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, to JAMES SHARP, Archbishop of St. Andrews, with a present of coals.

Wemyss, 20 September 1665.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE to accept of some few coalles, the best that the coall of Methill cane afford. This bearer, John Gibsone,



skipper in St. Andrews, I hoope will delywer them saiffe at St. Androis herbour to any your Grace shall give order to receave them from him. Your Lordship hes nothing to give him for frauyht or any thing els, but to caus wnloade the barke. My Lord, I am so obleidged to your noble fawouris that I shall newer be able to requite them, but to confess and proue willing to give testamonie hou much I am,

Your Grace most obleidged and reall serwant,

WEMYSS.

For his Grace my Lord Primatte and Lord Archbishope of St. Andrus.

The true copy.—20 September 1665.—W<sup>s</sup>

Thir ar the first colles that euir this or any othir Bishop of St. Andrus gott from the colle of Methill, which is mirly of my ounie frie gift and goodu[i]ll to him or his sucksessors.

WES.

158. (3.) THE SAME to THE SAME. Giving a boat load of coals yearly.  
[Copy.]

Wemyss, 28th November 1665.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—I cannot but be sencible of your Lordships favoures conferred on me, amongst uthers, your Lordships laite courtesie in confirming (so freeilie) my rights of Methill toune and harbour. I shall be very loath to prove ungrate. As I haue used freedom and made bould with your Grace in this particular, I houpe your Lordship will not scruple to accept of a small testimoney of my obligatioune and respects to your Lordship, of some few coalles yeirlie, as ane token of my thanckfullnesse during all the tyme of your life, which shall be very heartilie bestowed by me. I houpe your Lordship will take this in good part, as a particular tye to your Grace allenerlie,



without any farder engagment upon me or my posteritie, to any of your Lordships successours in that sea of St. Andrews, and if it shall please God to call me before your Lordship, by this I oblige my aires and successours at Methill to answeire your Grace yeirlie one boates loading of coalles when ever ye shall send for them to that harbour of Methill, they haveing your order to me or my servants, which shall be answered most thanckfullie by him who is,

Your Grace most obliged and faithfull servant.

For his Grace my Lord Archbishope of St. Andrews, Lord Primate of Scotland.

159. (4.) JAMES SHARP, Archbishop of St. Andrews, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Thanking him for the coals.

Edinburgh, December 6, 1665.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—I was surprysed by the favour of your Lordships letter. Strathhenrye having told me of your Lordships purpose to deal so nobly with me, I desired him to move your Lordship not to express it by wreat; your word which yow had uttered to me was sufficient. I would have been ready to have served your Lordship, and evidenced the great honour I pay to your noble family in a matter which might have yieldit a greater emolument to me then that of Methill town and harbour; and I must acknowledg your Lordship has been pleasit to give a greater testimony of your sentiment therof then it does deserve, which I must own as a supererogating act of your Lordships kyndnes to myself, but never had the least thought of its laying any tye or engagement upon your Lordship to continue it longer then your pleasure should allow, much less that it should oblige your Lordships successors to pay any such acknowledgment to any who are to succeed me in the see of St.





Andrews. I pray for all prosperity to attend your Lordship and noble relations, and that yow may continue your good opinion of,

My Lord, your Lordships most humble and faythfull servant,

S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

I shall crave your Lordships leave to present my most humble service to my ladye. When I wait upon her Ladyship, I hope to satisfye for my omission to send a return to her late desire in reference to Largo.

For the ryghtt honorabill the Earle of Wemyss.

160. (5.) THE SAME to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, and DAVID, LORD NEWARK. Dutch ships seen near Berwick.

Edinburgh, 24 November 1666.

RIGHT HONORABLE,—I am informed that there hes bein a fleit of Dutch shipes sein aff the English coast neir to Berwick, and that they stood for the coast of Scotland, and therfore I have thought fitt to give yow notice theroff, that ye may look to all the tounes on the coastsyd of Fyff, and order that the Magistratts may putt their inhabitants in a postur for the security of their burghes, in case of any attempt; and if there be any shipes within their harboures wherein there are cannon, that they plant them for their best advantadge to secure their harbours, as lykwyse that the gentlemen and others of the landwart may be ordered to be ready, upon your Lordships call, to march to any place where your Lordships shall have advertishment that there is any danger. Intreating your Lordships will immediatly give notice theroff, which shall be immediatly imparted to the Lordis of Privy Council by

Your Lordships very humble servànt,

S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

For the Earle of Wemyes and Lord Newark—these.



161. (6.) DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, to JAMES SHARP, Archbishop of St. Andrews. To keep the gentlemen of Fife together. Copy.

Wemyss, 28th November 1666.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—I haue receiued the Councells orders, of this dayes daitt, the 28th. And my Lord Newarke was heere this day, and we haue resolved punctuallie to obey the Councells orders, and shall keep the gentlemen and uthers togethers the morne att their several rendezvous, till we gett further orders from your grace and Councill. I most freely show your Grace that I find all men in this shire unanimous to doe his Majesties service, but it is most true that we haue not armes either for horse or foott but swords, and they are soo allarmed with the reports that ships were seen yesterday a litle without the May, which makes them altogether unwilling to leave their oune coast; but we shall doe what we can to arme some, and shall be ready to our power to obey. Not giueing your grace any farder trouble at this tyme, but hes sent this expresse to receiue farder orders to him who is

Your grace most faithfull and humble servant,

WES.

For his Grace the Archbishope of St. Andrues, lord primett of Scotland.

162. (7.) JAMES SHARP, Archbishop of St. Andrews, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS. Defeat of the rebels.

Edinburgh, November 29, 1666.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP to pardon that I did not send a return to the letters I received from your Lordship two dayes agone. I could not give other but that which was yesterday sent by the clerk



of the Councill. Now the Generall having defeated and dissipated the rebells yesterday in the evening, I suppose your Lordship may dismiss these gentlemen who meet in the severall divisions of Fyfe untill yow know the Councills further order. I can only add my particular thanks for your Lordships great care and activity in his Majestyes service at this exigent, of which I shall this day wreat to my Lord Commissionar, that he may notice it to the King. God bliss my Ladye, your noble family, and give your Lordship a long and happy lyfe, as prayeth

Your Lordships most humble and obedient servant,  
S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

For the right honorabill the Earle of Weymes—these.

163. (8.) THE SAME to THE SAME. A Minister for Markinch.

May 14, 1667.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—I am ashamed that after two letters full of kyndnes from your Lordship, I have not peyed my acknowledgment befor this; but my indisposition and the dimness of my eyes caused this omission, which I must leave to your Lordships pardon. My Lord, the many civilities and acts of favour which upon all occasions, without change, your Lordship have putt upon me these 7 years past since I had the honour to be known to your Lordship. have been such, and so beseeing a noble person, as cannot but raise an great esteem and honor in my heart for your Lordship, and ingage my affection for your service, and my prayers for your wellbeeng and the prosperity of your noble family. I must acknowledge your Lordships favour in concerning yourself so effectually for me at the late meeting at Cowper, so as what ease I had, I owe it to your Lordship. Your frequent visits by your express messages in the tym of my



seeknes were very acceptable and refreshing to me. I have fallin into a 2d relaps, but my fitts are gentle, and not very troublesom, so that I hope, through Gods mercy, they shall not continue long. When God shall be pleasit to recover me, I will wait upon your Lordship, and shall think myself very unhappie if I doe not endeavour upon every opportunity to deserve well of your Lordship.

My Lord, I am told that the gentlemen of Markinch parish are busying themselves in offering one to me to be minister there. Your Lordship knows the constitution of this church is not such as it was, when the call of ministers dependit upon the election of the parish. The right of patrons is restored by law, and seeng I am titular, and have the right of presentation, they cannot expect that I will be complemented out of it by imposing whom they please upon me, by way of supplication, especially when they intend for a capricio young man, who has violated his oath and fayth to his bishop, and putt an notorious despyte upon the order of this church; sure the stickler and motioner in this cannot be lookt upon as a sober and peaceable man. Markinch is a considerable parish; your Lordship and my Lady Levin have the greatest interest in it, and I will be answerable to your Lordship that the person I design for it shall be an able, pious, and discreet man, and shall give your Lordship abundant satisfaction. I am concerned to prowyd such an one for it. Let me beseech your Lordship to mind the speedie planting of the kirk of the Rind, for Mr. Smith cannot goe thither any more, for his beeng there gave offence, and opened many mouthes against me in this countrey; yea I have been spoke of for it at the Court of England. Pardon all this trouble, and beleeve me to be in the sense of all your favours,

My Lord, your Lordships much oblidged and most humble servant,

S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

For the ryghtt honorabill the Earle of Wemyss.





## 164. (9.) THE SAME to THE SAME. Confirmation of Methil.

London, September 15, 1668.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—After I was honoured with the receipt of your Lordship's of the 3d, I was necessitated to be abroad for some dayes, and took the first opportunity to speak to the Earl of Lawderdaill and Sir Robert Moray of these two concernes mentioned by your Lordships, and found that as to the first, the confirmation of Methill, the king's hand would be obtained to it; but they did stick at the passing of the signature for the excise of salt, upon these reasons which I have since once or twice offered to be considered: but I cannot say to your Lordship there is hope of prævailing, though I shall not give over insisting till I part from this place, which may be about the king and court ther going to Newmarket, about the last of this month. I had the honor to wait upon the Dutchess since her return from the bathes, and was glade to see her Grace in so good heart, though she has not fully recovered her strength. The Parliament heer is adjourned till March. Mr. Secretary Morice has lately dimitted his place in favour of Sir John Trevir, upon a valuable consideration. The king and court are well: and that your Lordship and noble family may be blissed with all prosperity is the prayer of,

My Lord, your Lordship's most humble and obedient servant,

S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

I shall crave your Lordship's leave to tender my most humble duty to my Ladye.

For the ryghtt honorabill the Earle of Wemyss.

## 165. (10.) THE SAME to THE SAME. To wait on his Lordship.

Scotsraig, 23 August [16]75.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—This is to returne my humble acknowledgment of the great honour yow doe me, and the concerne yow are



Soothring 23 August  
25

May it please your L<sup>ty</sup>:

This is to return my humble acknowledgments of the great honour you do me, and  
the honour you are pleas'd to express for me, by your <sup>very</sup> letter of the 23<sup>d</sup>; this evening  
I set out to write upon your L<sup>ty</sup> and my Lady's with the burden of my most humble  
Duty, till I shall have opportunity for performing of it myself, after I had waited upon  
my Lord Chamberlain at his L<sup>ty</sup> Sunday of this week; Will Gray who's known to  
your L<sup>ty</sup>; I request will give me some account to morrow at night how it is with  
your L<sup>ty</sup>; my noble Lady; and the family whose honour and prosperity I am  
a wellwisher to in much sincerity beseeching the continuance of Blessings from  
Heaven upon you; I am in the course of all your kindnes

my very noble Lord

Your most humble and most obedient servant

for  
The r<sup>th</sup>. Honell

: THOROWS.

The Earle of Warrington



pleasit to express for me, by your kynd letter of the 23d. This morning I sent one to waite upon your Lordship and my Ladye with the tender of my most humble duty, till I shall have opportunity for performing of it myself, after I had waited upon my Lord Chancellour at Lesly some day of this week. Will Gray, who is known to your Lordship, I expect will give me some account tomorrow at night how it is with your Lordship, my noble Ladye and the family, whose honour and prosperity I am a well-wisher to in much sincerity, beseeching the continuance of blissings from heaven upon yow. I am in the sense of all your kyndnesses,

My wery noble Lord, your most humble and most obedient servant,  
S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

For the ryghtt honorabill the Earle of Wemys.

166. (11.) THE SAME to THE SAME. Meeting at Cupar to suppress disorders.

St. Andrews, Apryll 17, [16]76.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—The principal, Dr. Wemys, having told me that your Lordship had no notice of the Councillis appoynting your Lordship to attend ther committee to sitt at Cowper upon next Weddensday, the 19th instant, as beeng one of the number, I shall crave leave to help this omission of the Clerks, who should have givin your Lordship notice befor this tyme of the Councillis appointment, by assuring that my Lord Chancellor, the Earles of Kelly, Wemys, and Kinghorne, and I were all nominated upon that Commission for taking course to suppress the great disorders acted so openly in this shyre, to the reproach of authority where ther is no shadow of pretext. By letters I had lately from the Court, I find the king takes particular notice of them, and expects that these he trusts with his government



will not suffer this countrey to be cast loose as if we had no king nor law. I know your Lordships noted zeal upon all occasions for the kings service and the good of your countrey, which will be found particularly concerned, that these shamefull and scandalous practises into which the poor people are seduced be in tyme noticed more effectually then they have been, and therfor hope you will give your assistance to that meeting upon Weddensday next at Cowper, where about 1 of the clock in the afternoon your Lordship, with the rest of my Lords, shall be by Gods permission attendit by,

My noble Lord, your Lordships most humble and faythfull servant,  
S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

I pray all happines may attend my most noble Ladye, my Ladye Bruntiland, and my Lord with all the family.

For the ryghtt honorable the Earle of Weems.

167. (12.) THE SAME to THE SAME. A Minister for the Rynd.

Edinburgh, January 22, [16]78.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—About 6 weeks agone Mr. Gabriel Sempell brought to me a full dimission under his hand of his ministry at the kirk of the Rind, and in consideration that the people there have been long destitute of a preaching ministry, I yeeldit to the earnest desire of the Earle of Argyle for one Mr. Poploy to be putt into that charge, having heard him preach to satisfaction, and received a good testimony of his temper and carriage; but it was with this express provision that his Lordship should purchase your Lordships express consent and approbation, without which that person, nor any else, shall not be entered minister at the Rind. I have and shall ever pay that honour and regard to your Lordship, as I shall not dispose





of a minister to any parish where your Lordship has interest without your knowledge and satisfaction. This is all I can say in returne to your Lordship's I had this day, but that I shall ever remain in much sincerity,

My Lord, your most humble and faythfull servant,

S<sup>t</sup> ANDREWS.

I crave leave to present my most humble service to my Lady, Lord Bruntiland and his Lady, with Gods blissing to the fyre syde.

For the ryghtt honorabill the Earle of Wemys.

168. (13.) THE SAME to THE SAME. Accident to the Archbishop.

Edinburgh, Martii 14, [16]78.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—I humbly acknowledge this instance of your Lordships kyndnes amongst many, that by your letter of the 11th yow are pleasit with so much concerne to inqyre how it is with me after that fall I had by leaping out of my coach whyl the horses were dryving it at a full gallop into the street, by which rapid motion I was turned about, so as my leg and shoulder lighting upon the stones, under the weight of my body, my hind head dashing against a causey stone, had a deep and large wound, to the effusion of much blood, yet, through Gods mercy, without touching my skull. I have kept my chamber since Saturreday was 7 nyghtt, and in few dayes after the pain and contusion of my leg and shoulder was gone. The wound of my head is almost healed now, so that in the beginning of the next week I hope to be in condition to travaile home. I have presumed, from the sense I bear of your Lordships kyndnesses for me upon every occasion, to give yow this account of Gods goodnes in delivering



me from the ill consequences of that accident, and as God shall be pleasit to prolong my lyfe and health, I shall wish for an opportunity to serve your Lordship, whose long lyfe and happines, with the prosperity of your noble family, is heartily prayed for by,

My Lord, your most humble and most obedient servant,

S<sup>T</sup> ANDREWS.

I crave leave by this to tender my most humble duty to my Ladye.

For the ryghtt honorabill the Earle of Wemys.

169. (14.) THE SAME to THE SAME. Translation of Mr. Munro to the Wemyss.

Edinburgh, May 3, [16]78.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—Having spoke with my Lord Chancellor, and found his Lordship willing that, for your Lordships satisfaction, Mr. Monroe should be transported to the charge of the ministry at the Wemys, now wacant by the dimission of worthy Mr. Nairn, for which I am wery sorry, finding that during his ability and strength his imployment in that station was most usefull to the Church and to your noble family, I shall be ready to doe every thing requisit on my part for setling the sayd Mr. Monroe in that church, knowing him to be a person who, by his piety, prudence, and gravity, I hope will commend your Lordships choyce, though I beleeve the church where he now serves will be at a loss, in order wherunto I shall cause serve his edict; but it will be fitt that, befor it be done, your Lordship may be pleased to desire that in the next week he come and speake with me, who shall be in this town. I congratulat your Lordships happines by God his giving yow a grandchyld, the hopefull



heire of your noble family, which I pray God to bliss with the continuance of all prosperity, and ever shall remain,

My Lord, your most humble and most obedient servant,

S<sup>CT</sup> ANDREWS.

I pray for all happines to my Lady, and perfect recovery and joy to my young Ladye who lyes in.

For the ryghtt honorabill the Earle of Wemys.

170. JOHN, DUKE OF ROTHES, to [LADY MARGARET LESLIE, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, his sister]. Illness of the latter.

November the 29 [indorsed 1683].

MY DEIR SISTER,—I heaue reseued yours of the 13, which I most confes uas a troubell to me uhen I red it, for I faynd by it you heaue bein ill this thrie uicks, and that you ar aprehensiuie of yourself to be in deangier, which I troust in God you ar not, bot I houpe befor this can com to your handes you uill be out of all haserd, which uill be unexpresabell joay to me, uhatsoeuer be my oun condision uhen I shall heir it. As for your doughter busines, I shall meack it my stoudie to informe myself of it, and you shall heaue as taymous aduertisment as is in the pour of him hou is,

My deir sister, your most affectionat brother and humbell seruant,

ROTHES.

171. [MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS,] to ALEXANDER MELVILLE, MASTER OF MELVILLE. Defeat of the Duke of Monmouth at Sedgemoor. 1685. Holograph—unsigned.<sup>1</sup>

MY DEAR NEPHEW,<sup>2</sup>—I hope this shall not bring the first news of the unfortunat Duke of Monmouth, who by all apierance is taken by this

<sup>1</sup> The originals of this and the two following letters are in the Charter-Chest of Lady Elizabeth Jane Leslie Melville Cartwright.

<sup>2</sup> Alexander, Master of Melville, was nephew of Lady Wemyss, from his mother having been sister-uterine to her.



time or killd. I was unwilling to write to my sister least she know not of it; but if her business be not very pressing, I think she should come here and wait on our dear mother, who does not yet believe him in such hazard. Alas! the sad stroak will be heavy enough when it coms without the aggravation of groundles hops. The Lord comfort her. I ame in such confusion I can write noe more. Adieu, dear nephew.

For the Master of Melvill.

172. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to [GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF MELVILLE]. Lord Southesk's suit for her daughter.  
*Circa 1690.*

MY LORD,—The relation I have to your Lordship, besides the esteem and deferance I ever had for you, makes mee judge it my duty to intret your Lordships advice in a matter of verry great concerne to me. My Lord Southesk has been in sute of my daughter Nanie this pritty while, and I am very unwilling to disposs of her, she is so young, so I positivly told my Lord Southesk it was needless for him to speak anie more of that matter, since I thought it my daughter and my interest not to marry her in haste, and I knew all his relations thought it his interest to marry now, so I should wish him happy in another choice; but hee is so earnest to have her, that he offers to take noe portion with her, and to give her what joynture I pleass and, which I think most of all, to waitt the time I shall think fitt to bestow her upon him. I would say nothing to all this till I spoak with her selfe ceriously about it, and after I had done soe, I found she thinks her selfe oblidg'd to believe he has a great kindness for her, and more then she can probably expect from anie other, so she desired mee to ask my friends advice in it, and my Lord Raith was the first I spoak to of it; and since it seems my daughter inclines for this match, which is the reason of my





asking your Lordships advice in it, I hope you will be soe kinde as to give it me frily, and as soon as your conveniency can allow, for hee is very pressing to have a meeting of friends, that hee may have some assurance that tho' the marriage bee delayed, yit her friends and her selfe may be satisfied. God knows how much this affair has weighted me. I wish I may bee drected to do what is most for His glory and my poor childe her advantage.

I am, your Lordships affectionat sister and most humble servant,

M. W.

173. THE SAME to THE SAME. Proposed marriage of Lord Leven and Lady Anna Wemyss.

March 18, [*circa* 1691].

MY LORD,—Your letter of the 26 February came not to my hand till Thursday last, at which tim my sone was verry ill; the small pox came out that night. I hope this will excuse my not ansuering your Lordships letter sooner. My Lord, as for what I wrote formerly to your Lordship concerning my Lord Southesk, his proposalls to my daughter, they were soe verry fair and his offers soe great as his affection to her apear'd to bee, that really I think it was noe great wonder that my daughter seem'd to incline to that match; that which I do think a great deall more strange is that one soe young as shee should have been soe concern'd to have ane unjust right quatt, which might have ruin'd my familly if it had come to a competition, as I hope in God it never shall. I finde she has a great minde to have the persone she chuses for her husband should love her more then his interest, and have noe eye upon her brothers estate, and I believe she will finde few if anie in Scotland that has a larger share of honour and generosity then your Lordships sone, my Lord Leven, who, I hope, by this time has persuaded her of his great affection to her; but if neither I nor she did



at first believe it was soe great, he may blame himselfe and his friends who were against it. I have often and frily told him I think he should marry none that your Lordship and his mother are averse from, since marriages seldome prosper when parents only give a forced consent.

I am, your Lordships affectionat sister and humble servant,  
M. WEMYSS.

My daughter hops you will excuse her not ansuering your Lordships letter. She has a sore eye and a sore heart too, for her brother was worse last night.

174. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to [GEORGE, VISCOUNT OF TARBAT]. A minister to South Leith.<sup>1</sup>

Leith, the 15th July [16]92.

MY LORD,—The occasion of my giving you this trouble is to informe you how the state of the calling a minister to South Leith is now contraverted. I shall in the first place intret your Lordship to be pleass'd to read the petition, which will informe you, better then I can do by a letter, of this affair; only this I most say, if Mr. Wishart be sent away, or rather forced away, from this people, it will be the strangest thing ever was done of this kinde, for he has a call from the wholl elders and majestrats of Edinburgh and Leith, and from the major part of the heritours. And altho there is a call for one Mr. Gray to the parish of South Leith, yit this gentleman, Mr. Wishart, has much law and reason upon his side; and the other being a meer stranger to all this people, at lest to most of them, it is imposible that my good friend my Lord Tarbat can refuse so just a desire as to disoune Mr. Key and his pretendit illegell session; and in your Lordship's

<sup>1</sup> Original Letter in Cromartie Charter-chest.



favouring this poor people here with your concurring to Mr. Wishart's call, your Lordship will extreamly oblidge,

My Lord, your most faithfull servant and affectionat cousin,

175. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN. . Lady Sutherland to petition Parliament to do her justice. *Circa 1692.*<sup>1</sup>

MY DEAR LORD,—I am verry sorry your wife is growne so tender and subject to vapours, but, since it is so, I think she should always have something by her that is fitt for preventing them. She is very carless of herself, and therfor, if her woman understood her duty, she would put her in minde of these things, for its not posible for you to know when she is a little indisposed and needs such things, for she concealls it from you, becauss she knows it troubles you. I was afray'd the fright of the rable wold do her hurt, for I darsay she was teribly alarmed and feard for you, and so was I, for I heard they took a fancy that the baxter lad they wanted was in the castle; my Lady Southerland told me soe. I finde she has a minde to petition the Parliament to doe her justice, as she calls it; for, being the eldest sister, she says its the least they can doe to devyde the estate betwixt us, for soe K. James

<sup>1</sup> The originals of this and the sixteen following letters are in the Charter-chest of Lady Elizabeth Jane Leslie Melville Cartwright.



himselfe design'd to have done in his Parliament here when he was Commissioner, if the publick affairs of the nation had not hindred it. It would be too tedious to write all that pass'd betwixt us, soe I shall deferr it till I have the hapyness to see you, which I hope will be very shortly. In the meantime, I will be impatient till my footman returne from Edinburgh, that I may know how my dear chyld is. I was soe hurried with business yesterday, and weary with writing to my advocatts, that I did not write to your wife, but made her sister tell her soe. If you be taken up, and she not very well, I intret you causs Charles Hay give me ane account how she is and my dear Marie, who I long to see, as I do you all. I am, with much tenderness,

Your most affectionatt mother and faithfull servant,

M. WEMYSS.

My blissing to my dear daughter. Pegie gives her humble service to you both.

176. DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN, to MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, his mother-in-law. On his way to join the army.  
*Circa* 1693.

Antwerp, July 2, always old still.

MY DEAR MADAM,—I wrot to yow from Helvutsluse the 23, and to my deareast, which I inclosed in your Ladyships, which yow will make use of according as my dear wife knows of my jurnay, when it cums to your Ladyships hand. I wreat from this lest the post be gone befor I came to Brussells, which will be to-morrow morning, and I know yow will be anxious to hear from me, espetially if the newes be trew which is talked here this day, which is that yeasterday the armees did engeadge, but whats the event is not yett known. Yow will perhaps be glad it be trew, but I leve yow to judge how I will like to come a day affter the markt. I know if I had not wreat yow wold have been





concerned, [so I] judged it my dewty to give your Ladyship [thi]s line. I am apt to think it has not been ane engeadgement of the wholl arnee, but of a part only; however, this is my oun conjectour, and I shall wreat more fully from Brussells by nixt post. Yow have here on to my dearest, for I doubt not but she knows all ere now. I long to hear from yow and hir. I am in good health, and ever

Your Ladyships most obediant sone and servant.

For the Countess of Weemys.

177. DAVID, LORD ELCHO, afterwards THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS,  
to DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN. Journey to the Bath.

Yorke, July 12, [16]95.

MY LORD,—I thought it my duty to show you that we came all safe here yesternight. I beg your pardon for not writing to you before this, but I was so much taken up, it being ordinarily late before we came to our quarters, and also I thought a letter might be troublesome to you when you'r now so much otherwise taken up. But I thought your concerne in us, and ours in you, would blot away all these little ceremonies.

My mother was a little troubled with a bleeding att the nose for some dayes after she came from Edinburgh, but its now better; as for my sister and I, we take very well with the journey. I should have heartily wished the Parliament had not sitt so long, for then I should had the hopes of enjoying your Lordships and my sisters good companys att the Bathe, which, I am sure, would have been a great satisfaction to

Your Lordships most affectionate brother and humble servant,

ELCHO.

Give my humble service to my sister. I presume to put my service to my Lord Northeske in your Lordships letter, and if I had not been wearied with going through the town all day, I should written to him.



178. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN. The Duchess of Buccleuch.

London, September the 21, [16]95.

MY LORD,—I am very glad you were all in your ordinary health when I heard from you last. I pray God continue it. You tell me the contrey affords noe news, and yit you can alwise write me either the best or worst news I can hear, for that is according as your wife, your selfe, and children are, and nixt to that ane account of my Lord your father, my sister, and there children, is the most acceptable news I can hear. I wrote to my daughter just befor my sister Buccleuch came here. I told her I did expect her Grace very soon. I never doubted but that she was every way one of the best of her sex, and now, I thank God, she is beleev'd to be soe by all that knows her well. She is the pleasentest company in the world, and the most concerned in her friends. She ask'd me many questions about your wife and children, and was very glad to hear of there being what they are. I pray God bliss you all to one another. The post will be gone, soe adieu, my dear Lord.

179. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to ANNE, COUNTESS OF LEVEN, her Daughter. Lord Elcho going to the Academy.

September 28, [16]95.

MY DEAR DAUGHTER,—I am very sorry you have been so ill of a collick; there is nothing gives it sooner than cold att the stomach, soe I intret you keep your self warme. Since I came to London I have had a great cold, but since I let blood it is much better. I had a letter from your Lord last week, but I never gott two in one week from none of my friends since I left you; I wrote ane ansuer to it two days after I receiv'd it. I am glad you are quite of Mr. Midletoun, but verry sorry for our good kinde friend Mr. Dillidaff his death. I doubt not of his



being infinitely happy, which may be great comfort to all concerned in him. I doubt if your brother will get written this day, for he is out of town; he has been very earnest with me to lett him goe to the academy here, which indid is very much commended; the master is a French refugie, and is call'd a cerious honest man. They say there is noe place where your brother could better learne to ryde the great horse, fence and dance than here, and tho' I much rather have him att home, yit I must consider he cannot be bred their, and he dos but loss his time att Edinburgh, and therefore I resolve to put him to the academy nixt week, God willing. I desired Dr. Melvill to tell your Lord and you that I had some thoughts of it when he parted from us att Bath, but I had never saide a word of it to anie body but my Lord Rankeilor, for it is only two days since I tould your brother his request was granted. The D[uchess] of Buccleuche is gone back to Culford to bring her children and familly into town. The king is expected here next week, which is all the news worth writing. My dear, give my humble service to your Lord and my blissing to the suet babes.

I am ever your most affectionat mother,

M. WEMYSS.

180. DAVID, LORD ELCHO, to ANNE, COUNTESS OF LEVEN, his sister. That he had drunk her health on her birthday.

London, October 26, [16]95.

MY DEAR SISTER,—I had a letter from you some four or five dayes agoe, giving me ane account that you were all well, which shall continue to be amongst the best of news to me. I am sory to find so many of my letters to you have miscaried, for I am sure I did not write under five or six to you from the Bath, and this is the third, if not the fourth, since I came to London. I wrot with John Hay to my Lord, and desinged to have written to you also, to tell you I was merry on your birth day, and drunk your health more nore once or



twice, and hopes to drink it fifty year after this, but I judge this may come to your hands before his doe. . . .

Give my humble service to my Lord, and I pray you doe not let Mary forget me. I hope since I have not the blessing of a brother, to kepe my head from being broke, I shall have as many nephews to kept it, as half a dozen of men shall not be able to breake it.

I was at the Princesses Court last night, where I heard the envoy from the Duke of Tuscany make a speach to the Princes and the Prince; and I also see a Dutch envoy. I shall alwayes be sure to give you ane account of any news thats going.—I am, my dear sister,

Your most affectionate brother and obedient humble servant,

181. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN. Lady Rothess and the Sheriffship of Fife.

London, November 16th, [16]95.

MY LORD,—I receiv'd yours of the 7th, which I long'd for, not having heard from anie of you this fortnight before. My daughter should order some of her servants to write ane account of you all, when she is not well herselfe. I have been a little longer of writing to her then ordinery, being taken up about a very great and nesessary work; I mean the receiving of the holie sacrament. I am verry sorry for what you write anent my Lady Rothess her methods; it remembers me of the proverb, The begining of mischief is noe more then a midge wing. She has given her selfe the trouble to write severall times to





me of late, and does, as you say, very much regraitt that she is nessimat to take such methods, or els she must quite the shirrifship of Fife. You may be shure she says all she can to justifie herself, and expresses a great deall of concerne and kindness for me and my children, and particularly that she is glad to hear your wife and children are all well. I am sorry you blame my Lord Rankilor so much. You must consider him as my Lord Leslie's tutor, and one so much obliged to his father, and yit I dar say he is both kinder and wiser then to instigatt my Lady Rothess to such violent measures. I am shure he has been att paines to persuade her to the contrary, and she is ill pleass'd with him upon that head. He wrote a letter to me about 3 weeks agoe, in which he did much regraitt the differances amongst you, and saide he had so much respect and kindness to both famillys, and very great obligations besides; that he was much deficultat how to carry. I did not hear from him since. I am sorry to hear you are not pleass'd with William Robertsones methods. He wrote to me that before he receiv'd my orders it was taken out of there hands, and made a councill business. I long to hear what becoms of it. Noe doubt the Chancelor will be against you, but I beleeve most part of the Councill will be your friends. I did not write so long a letter, since I had almost gone blynd, so I shall add no more but my blissing to your wife and suet babes, and that I am ever,

My dear Lord, your most affectionat mother and faithfull servant,

M. W.

182. DAVID, LORD ELCHO, afterwards THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS,  
to DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN. Sitting of Parliament.

London, November 26, [1695].

MY DEAR BROTHER,— . . . The Parliament sat downe on Fryday, and the King had a verry pritty speach next day. I would send you it if I



did not think you will have it before this come to your hands. Neither of the Houses has done anything of business as yet.

The House of Lords is adjourned for some dayes. The House of Commons were about answering the King's speech this day, and showing their earnestness in the carrying on of the warr, and how far they would contribute to it; but there rose a difference. Some would have in it providing such and such things were done, but it carried that there should be no providings at all, but all should unanimously joine both estates and persons (if required) to the service of their king and country, which causes well affected people have very good hopes of this Parliament.

I am sorry to hear your business is gone against you, but any ill has some advantage; you'll know the affections of the most part of people, and how far pike will lead people to do unjust things. My service to my sister. My dear Lord, adieu.

183. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to ANNE, COUNTESS OF LEVEN, her daughter. Mr. Riddell, her minister, to leave.

December 26th, [16]95.

MY DEAR DAUGHTER,—I am very glad to hear by your Lord that you are well, and the dear babes. I pray God continue it. I hope you shall see him before it be long, for he will stay no longer than his business is done. I hope my sister Melvill is with you, to whom I have written, as also to my Lord Raith, who is like to take my minister from me, but he has been so positive that he will leave us that I blame him the less. Truly Mr. Riddell has not dealt discreetly nor very prudently with me, for if he had pleased to have told me what he has said to many since I came from home, I had taken it less ill. I hope if he come to see you you will tell him that his complaining so much of my slighting him will make others afraid to come; and, besides, it is such



a reflection, that it cannot but be very disobliging to me, and all concerned in me; and I could truly swear I never did any thing that Mr. R. had the least ground to take ill, so it seems he is too credillous, and that is a great weakness. My sister B. is just coming here, so I shall only add, I am, my dear heart,

Your affectionat mother,

M. WEMYSS.

My dear, send the inclosed letters with your oune conveniency so soon as you can.

To the Countess of Leven, Edinburgh, Scotland.

184. DAVID, LORD ELCHO, afterwards THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS,  
to DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN. Had been at Court.

London, May 7th, [16]96.

DEAR BROTHER,—I heard from you some dayes agoe, which was the first of a long time. I wouldn't have been so long without writing had not I been much taken up some dayes before the King went away; the Court was so throunge of company and ambassours, with their attendants, that it was difficult to kiss his Majesties hand. We didn't forget your health on Moonday, and were glad to hear you were all well.

My mother and sister are your humble servants, and hopes to see you shortly; for I think in a week or two we shall bee from this, but we aren't as yet determined to goe to Bath, or straight for Scotland. I am glad to hear Commissar Scougald is a Lord of the Session, for in my opinion few deserves it better; as for other of your news I am more a stranger to them than you. If we goe to Bath, I hope you'll honour me with hearing from you somtimes, which will oblige, my dear brother,

Yours.

Give my humble service to my sister.

To the Earle of Leven, Edinburgh, Scotland.



185. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to [GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF MELVILLE]. Proposed marriage of her daughter with David, Earl of Northesk.

November 25th. [Indorsed 1696.]

MY LORD,—My Lord Northesk is very earnest to have a meeting of friends, that he may let you see what condition his fortune is in, which I always thought wee behoved to take much upon trust, none knowing his Lordships debt but himselfe, nor did I ever see what way wee can know it but if he pleasses ; now what incumbrances may be upon the estate and what the rent is, that may and must be inquired into. He is to give your Lordship a sight of his rentall and list of debts as he has done me, and since your Lordship has been always soe much for this match, I hope and will expect that you will be att the trouble to inquire anent the condition of his estate, and will be pleass'd to advise him emediatly to call a minister, for it will not be promices that will either satisfie her or her friends. I think you should tell my Lord Northesk that he cannot expect there can be anie thing done till once wee inquire what incumbrances may be upon his estate, which may be very soon done. I soppo my Lord Rankilor knows somewhat of his affairs, and my Lord Whithill has severall acquaintances in Angus who can informe likewise. I pray God derect us in the matter, that all may be for His glory and my poor daughters advantage.

I am ever, your Lordships affectionat sister and humble servant,  
M. WEMYSS.

186. THE SAME to THE SAME. Further concerning the marriage.

Wemyss, 22 of December [16]96.

MY LORD,—I am earnestly desired by my Lord Northesk to write to your Lordship that you may pleass to meett with some of his friends and himselfe to treat of the dessign'd marriage betwixt him and my





daughter. I have seen his Lordship's list of debts ; and a good part of it, he says, was contracted to procure these rights he has gott upon Kilfauns estate. I finde he understands his business verry well, and I believe you will not finde him averse from giving what joynture and other things wee shall desire, which I do not like to be unreasonable in asking. So I think six thousand merks of anuety, or seventie chalders of victuell, will not be refused ; and if he will give 10 chalders more, in case there shall be noe heirs of the marriage, it is well. But you need not press it much. But for 70 chalders in anie case, it is the least that can be excepted, and in lieu of the tearce, ether 3000 merks, or the third of the movabells, as she herselfe shall chuse att the time it falls due, if ever that bee ; and for a house, if Arrall be sould, six hundreth merks yearly is but a small sume, and what anie tollerable housse will cost. And for children's portions, the ordinary rule is the mother's portion, if but one daughter, and if there be two or more, so much more money as shall be agried upon by friends ; and I doubt not your Lordship will make the best bargaine you can for your niece. You know her portion is to be fourty thousand[d] merks. I know nothing else matteriall to be considered in the contract. I soppose you will order a minut of what is agried upon to be drawn up, and then wee shall consider what is to be done next. I hear your Lordship is very desireous to have my sone att the meeting, altho he will signefie very little, for he is perfittly ignorent of such bargains making : his consent to it is all that can be required.—I am, in all sincere respect, your Lordship's affectionat, humble servant,

M. W.

187. THE SAME to THE SAME. The same subject. .

December 29th, [16]96.

MY LORD,—I render you many thanks for your concerne in my daughter. I think your Lordship has done all verry well, and 200



pound sterling is better then what I proposs'd for the terce. I have pass'd from the 10 chalders of victuell in case of noe heir male, and am satisfied with seventy in anie case, as likewise with 45 or 50,000 merks for one daughter, as my Lord Northesk agrees to, and I think it is reasonable considering the debt upon the family, and certainly the father ought to have the devission of his daughters portions if there be two or three; and since he has been so discreet as to referr all to me, I think I can do noe less then referr 5000 merks of the childrens provission to himselfe, and make the houss redimable by his Lordships heirs. I have againe spoak to him for calling a minester, and he seems very willing to do it if there could be one found that were fitt for that place and willing to goe their, so I hope your Lordship will be soe kinde as to inquire for such a persone; you was speaking of one that was much comended who lives near Edinburgh. I pray God derset to a good one, and bliss this dessigned match. I am of your Lordships oppinion as to the privetnes of it. I am sincerely, my dear Lord,

Your most affectionat sister and faithful humble servant,

M. WEMYSS.

188. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to ANNE, COUNTESS OF LEVEN, her Daughter. Lord Northesk and Lady Margaret Wemyss. *Circa* 1696.

MY DEAR,—I expected to a heard from you one Saturday, as you promiced. I hope Georges lousnes proceeds from teething. Lord preserve him and make him a good old man. I have gott ane express from Edinburgh desiring me to come over, soe I entend to goe this day or tomorrow, and I will alow your sister to waitt one you, since your Lord cannot well get over so soon, so you may send the collace for her one Tewuesday, and Mrs. Cicell will waitt one her that lenth, since her oune woman is like to dye and you cannot well spair yours. My dear,



its like my Lord Northesk may give you a visett, which, if he do, you must not let him have ane oppertunity of speaking to your sister unless he take it when you are by, and in that case you ought to tell him that all the expressions of love he can give her, you soppss, will signifie nothing except he gaine my consent; for tho' I intend to give her noe more fruitless advice, yitt I will not consent to let her marry anie body that apears to be ane enemy both to the Government of Church and State, and I have a far better oppinion of her then to think she would tho I did alow her, which I never will. Let me know how you all are. Adieu, my deare.

To the Countess of Leven.

189. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to [GEORGE, EARL OF MELVILLE]. To meet the Bride.

January 13th, [16]97.

MY LORD,—I am very sorry for my sisters indisposition, but I am glad she is now better. I pray God continue it. I have been much trubled for my dear daughter Leven and her sones sickness, and had gone over to her this week, if I had not promiced the Master of Burleigh a lend of my pale herce and other things belonging to them, with my horses and servants; so if it pleass God to alow us all health, I entend over the water upon Wednesday next, and shall be very glad of your Lordships good company. You will do our bride a great honour and favour to see her safe their. I heard this morning that our dear suet bairne George is much better; the Lord make us thankfull, and spair him if it be His holie will. Give my humble service to my sister, and beleeve I am in all sincerity, my dear Lord,

Your Lordships affectionat sister and most humble servant,

M. WEMYSS.



190. [DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN, to his Wife, ANNE, COUNTESS OF LEVEN.] Racing match with Carnwath. *Circa 1697.*

MY D[EAR],—I have winne the race with my mare. I rune another by match with my gelding against Carnwaths horse for fyve guineas, and win that. I have matched him with the same horse this day moneth for 40 guineas to 20.

I am yours, my d[ear].

To the Countess of Leven.

191. [MARGARET, COUNTESS OF NORTHESK,] to her sister, ANNE, COUNTESS OF LEVEN. Family news. *Circa 1697.*

MY DEAREST SISTER,—I am very impatient to hear how dear Mary is. I wou'd have sent last week but was expecting every day to hear from yow, becaus yow told me yow wou'd send. I am now very feard she is worce that I have not heard from yow. I am wearie with wreten before I am well begune to yow, for I have been wreten to Leslie. My mother tells me that her dearest cusen, Montrose, is dying; I know she takes the alarme hottly. I have sent yow a litle cutt of my Inchtot-hill linnen to be your morning aprons. I have ordered Jean to putt up your wallnuts and cheries if she can get a ruskie for them. Give my affectionat service to Leven; my Lord gives hes to yow both, and asks if your Lord hes got any word from Ingland about his horces. Your bairne is very well and going alone. I am as sick as ever, but still yours, my dearest sister.

Munday night.

I will not forgett to drink your health tomorrow.

To the Countess of Leven.





192. GEORGE, VISCOUNT OF TARBAT, to MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, afterwards his wife. A love letter.<sup>1</sup>

2d March 1700.

MADAM,—I cannot refuse to write, when you command it; but, on the contrar, as to be commanded is my honour, and to obey is my duty, so in both I have an extraordinary satisfaction: my fear is that I fail in witting as I should, and so you may have the trouble of reading with more pains then profit; but if my obedience be acceptable to you, that is a happiness which I covet in all that I doo or am; and your Ladyship will crown all your great favours that I desire on earth to the ful, if you hast to give what is so much desired by,

Right honourable, yours, or else little better than nothing,

T.

I shall explain the few Latin words when I have the happiness to wait on you.

193. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to [GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF MELVILLE]. Lord Tarbat's proposals.<sup>2</sup>

Erroll, 6th of April 1700.

MY LORD,—I hear your Lordship ddesign'd the honour of a visett to my Lord Northesk and my daughter last week, but was oblidg'd to goe to Edinburgh about business. I shall be verry glad to hear you are not the worse of changing your bed. My Lord, I was earnestly intrated by your cousin, my Lord Tarbat, to write to your Lordship about a paper of propositions which I would not see till once your Lordship had consider'd it; for since you know his circumstances and estate much better then I do, besides that you are a better judge of the reasonablnes of the terms offred, and being so neerlie concerned in both, your Lordship is the fittest person to give your oppinion and advice in

<sup>1</sup> Original Letter in the Cromartie Charter-chest. letters are in the Charter-chest of Lady Elizabeth

<sup>2</sup> The originals of this and the three following Jane Leslie Melville Cartwright.



the matter, which I beleve you will do verry impartially, and I shall be glad to know your thoughts of it. I finde my Lord Leven has heard a great many falce and malicious storys of me, both anent this particular and other things. I did take paines to convince him of the contrary, for I am conscious to my selfe I never failed in my affection to him and his wife, and I don't take it well they are so apt to beleve what is saide to my prejudice, whither it be by my enemys or of dessigne to break, or att least weaken my kindness to them and theirs to me; it is all alike upon the matter; for both these kind of insendaries are wicked, and deserves noe credit, neither should they get anie from me, if they were the subject of their lys and storys as I am. I have given you too much trouble, so I shall only begg your pardone for this long scribe, and subscribe myselfe,

Your Lordships most affectionatt sister and faithfull servant,

M. WEMYSS.

194. GEORGE, VISCOUNT OF TARBAT, to [GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF MELVILLE]. Wishing his presence. [April 1700.]

MY DEARE LORD,—I proposed to be at Melvil Castl this day, but cannot, for Saturndayes journey hither from Edinburgh be the Ferry, on so very ill a day, hath wearied me; yett I would gone over that, had not my brother this morning caried my horse with him to Newtyle; and heer there are no hors ether for money or favour: no, not in Perth: so I give my duty to my Lady and your Lordship by this.

I hope your better health, and that I may [have] the honor to see yow heer ether on Wednesday or Thursday. This is my earnest desyre; tho with exception of hurting yow, for I will rather want my satisfaction of your comeing (tho I doe most anxiously desyre it), then to prejudice your health. My Lady Weem expects her three sonnes heer that day, I mean Thursday. Now, my Lord Whithil told me that he suspects it as doubtful as to the E. of Leven. I shall be very sorry



if he doe so, not altogether because that would be the greatest indignity he could put on me, as if I were too contemptible for his relation, but likewise, and chiefly, because I should look on a good understanding betwixt him and the Lady Weems thereafter as almost impossible, and any thing near that is very uneasy, and of uneasy consequences to both, farr more so open a breach ; and I am sure it would be so to,

My dear Lord, your most humble servant and faithfull coosigne,

TARBAT.

I could not desyre his presence on my accountt, because he justly declin'd that when I desyred it on the accountt of his relation to herr and yow are one for all to me.

195. THE SAME to THE SAME. Marriage with Countess of Wemyss.

30 April 1700.

MY DEARE LORD,—Since duty and custome oblige us to give accountt of our good happ to our freends, and to the best and faithfulest in the first place, so soon as I rose this day, after haveing been maried yesternight, next to my thanks to God, I render yow my duty and acknowledgment, for your true freendship and oblidging civilities to me in that affair, with this renewd declaration of my unalterable resolution of continēing in all states, my dear Lord,

Your most humble servant and faithful coosigne and freend,

TARBAT.

196. [DAVID, LORD ELCHO, afterwards THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS, to ANNE, COUNTESS OF LEVEN, his sister.] Charge of his children.

London, October 8th, 1700.

I HOPE you will not attribute my seldome writting, my dear sister, to any thing else but what it really is, want of what to say to prove



diverting to you. I was verry glad to hear from your Lord of your all being prittie well, and wishes what you complain of about your own health to the doctor to have been what I att first supposed it, tho' I think there's noe great need of such a wish, unless it were to please you, for there is noe appearence, upon my word, but that you'l come in earnest to what you hoped for in jest when you was young, to have twenty bairns.

I am verry sencible, my dear, of your good wishes towards me in your care and concern in what is most dear to me, my babies, and if ever it lyes in my power to show any returns of gratitude, there's nothing, I'm sure, could be more pleasing to me ; but you are the only mother they now have, and they are by providence thrown upon your care. I doe not encline to enter in compliments with you, seeing still they have too much the air of distrust, only what I could trust my all with is you, because we are so much one, that what belongs to one another we have a speciall tittle too. I have had thoughts of a good while to beg you to be att that trouble to look narrowly about the managment of my children, and that it may be the less trouble to you, and infinitely better for them, to take them to your own family. I know, my dear, you have told me you think it a trust, but, as I said before, there's noe body I could trust more with, so, my dear, when you please to take them, they are yours. I'm affraid Margaret Caithness's coming to your family, with the other necessary people about the bairnes, prove but troublesome, so if Margaret Arthur be not immediatly going to be married, Mary is both as capable and I'm sure full as willing, to look after them as any. So, if you please, order Caithness to get somewhat more then her wages, and let her dispose herself as she pleases ; but doe in this just as you think best.

Give my humble service to Leven. Tell him there's a report over toun to-day, which most people beleives, tho' it is but scarcely mentioned in the prints, that both the Pope and the King of Spain is dead.—My dear heart, adiew.





197. JOHN FRASER, brother of Lord Lovat, and others of the Clan Fraser, to DAVID, LORD ELCHO, afterwards THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS. Thanking him for favour to their chief, Lord Lovat.

Invernes, Februariè 26, 1701.

MY LORD,—Wee are informed by our chiefe, my Lord Lovat, that your Lordship was pleased to preferr him, in acquiring that debt yow have upon his familie, to any other, and that you are at last determined in his favours, notwithstanding of what sollicitationes were made against him. My Lord, it is a long tyme since wee knew and expected that your relation to our present chiefe would obleidge you to contribute for his standing, and that ther was no more effectuall way to doe it than by putting that right in his persone. And since it is now done, wee undersubscribers, friends, relationes, heretours, wodsetters, and vassalls to my Lord Lovat, look upon ourselves highly obleidged to give your Lordship thanks, which wee heartily doe, assureing your Lordship that wee and ours (whose ruine is now probably prevented by your Lordships kindness), shall alwayes be very ready to doe your honourable familie all the service that lyes in our power, both with our persones and meanes ; and though wee should not wish any alteration in the fortune of your worthy family, yet wee should be proud and verie glade of any opportunitie to acquitte ourselves as,

My Lord, your Lordship's most obleidged and humble servants,	
DAVID FRASER of Brea.	H. FRASER of Boleskine.
JO. FRASER, brother to my Lord Lovatt.	JO. FRASER off Litle Garth.
W <sup>m</sup> FRASER of Foeyr.	JO. FRASER of Munchegovie.
ALEX <sup>r</sup> FRASER of Faraline.	JO. FRASER of Knockcholein.
A. FRASER of Culduthell.	W <sup>m</sup> FRASER off Dulcriage.
JO. FRASER off Borlum.	T. FRASER off Gortulege.
	JO. FRASER of Erogie, eld <sup>r</sup> .



- ALLEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER of Eroge, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 H<sup>v</sup> FRASER of Foyer, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 JO. FRASER off Aberskie.  
 H. F. of Dunchea, elder.  
 THO. FRASER of Dunchea, y<sup>r</sup>.  
 JOHN FRASER of Garthmore.  
 A. FRASER of Bellnan, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 A. FRASER of Bochrubm.  
 A. FRASER of Bochrubm, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 JO. FRASER of Migouie, elder.  
 JO. FRASER off Migovie, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 HUGH FRASER of Kinmonovy, eld<sup>r</sup>.  
 W<sup>m</sup> FRASER of Kinmonovi, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 DONALD FRASER of Droumonde,  
 eld<sup>r</sup>.  
 JO. FRASER of Drumond, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 HUGH FRASER of Kinbrelly.  
 HUGH FRASER off Leadclune.  
 HUGH FRASER off Ardarach.  
 JO. FRASER of Achnabait.  
 JA. FRASER off Castellathers.  
 HUGH FRASER off Portclair.  
 JAMES FRASER of Ardochie.  
 ALEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER of Glendo.  
 HUGH FRASER of Garthmor, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 HUGH FRASER off Munchegovy, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 ALEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER off Aberskie, yo<sup>r</sup>.
- ALEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER off Knockie.  
 M<sup>r</sup> J. FRASER, minister at Ward-  
 law.  
 W. FRASER, minister at Kil-  
 morack.  
 H. FRASER of Glenwackie.  
 JOHN FRASER of Culmulin, elder.  
 HEW FRASER of Culmuline, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 ALEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER of Belldoune.  
 ANDREW FRASER of Bannaas.  
 ALEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER, one of the Baillie[s]  
 of Invernes.  
 ALEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER, witter in Inver-  
 nes.  
 WILLIAM FRASER, mer<sup>t</sup> in Inver-  
 nes.  
 JO. FRASER, mer<sup>t</sup> in Invernes.  
 ALEXANDER FRASER, merchant  
 in Invernes.  
 W<sup>m</sup> FRASER off Daltalich.  
 W<sup>m</sup> FRASER off Ercheitt.  
 ALEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER of Culduthell, yo<sup>r</sup>.  
 HEW FRASER of Belnaine, elder.  
 ALEXANDER FRASER, tutor of  
 Faralin.  
 ALEX<sup>s</sup> FRASER of Phophachie.  
 JAMES FRASER of Fanblair.

For the right honourable the Lord Elcho, att London.



198. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS AND CROMARTIE, to [her husband, GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF CROMARTIE.<sup>1</sup>] Intending to return.

Melvill, the 19th of Jullie 1703.

MY DEAREST LOVE,—I am very sory you have been so toyld with business, and satt so late up. I pray God it may not do you hurt. I long alredy to be uith you againe, and tho' I have a little of the gravell, yitt I resolve, if the Lord give me health and strength, to goe from this place tomorrow by 8 acloak in the morning, for I do not care to ly abed when I want my dearest and better parte. I shall be very carfull of your Pegie, and, if I finde my selfe weary or not well tomorrow, I will stay till Wednesday, which my sister is very earnest to have me do. My dearest heart, I had great satisfaction in the work I have been about these severall days past. It is now neer 12 acloak, so I shall add noe more, but I am unalterably, my dearest life,

Your oune,

M. W.

Your sone was very carful of me, which I took most kindlie one your account.

199. THE SAME to THE SAME. Expected to get over on Tuesday.

Saterdag, 24th [1703].

MY DEAREST,—Tho I wrote one Thursday, yit I would not miss this occasion to tell you I am weell, I thank God; and if my dear childe could have consented to my leaving her this afternoon, I would have gone to Sherps houss and stay'd there to-morrow and heard Mr. Tullideph preach, and gon away one Monday morning. But my dauchter was vex'd when I spook of it, and has convinced me I could

<sup>1</sup> The originals of this and the four following letters are in the Cromartie Charter-chest.



not be with you till Tewsday if I did so; for my Lord Melvills coach is to com to the waterside one Monday, and if wee can get the lenth of Kenoway that night, it is a great journey for the horses and for me too, who has 13 myles in this side; and I hope wee shall get over on Tewsday afternoon—and I can be no sooner over, however, now. The Lord send us a happy meeting! My dearst love, be carfull of the best parte of me, and do not fast long nor sitt up late. There is great care taken of me here, but I fear their will be some tears att parting, tho none from me, my dear.

Indorsed in the handwriting of the Earl of Cromartie: C<sup>r</sup> Weems L<sup>ro</sup>, 1703.

200. JEAN WEMYSS, COUNTESS DOWAGER OF SUTHERLAND, to GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF CROMARTIE. Aliment of her grandchildren.

Abbey, July 5th, 1704.

MY LORD,—I am constrain'd to forbear my addressing to the counsell anent the poor orphans, my grandchildren, their additionall aliment, hoping that when my sone Southerland comes here, and some other freinds, that I expect your Lordship may find the busieness more easie to obtain then at present it would be. I think my adversa[r]jies are affraid of your Lordship, for since I was with yow they have pay'd me the ordinary aliment that the counsell modiefed to the children severall years ago, tho' it has not afforded poor John a farthing to buy cloaths, or any necessary for him this year and a halfe bygone, so that I have bein forced to furnish him my selfe with all necessarys during that tyme. But I hope the counsell will ordain Arbuthnott to doe better things, so that his only brother may have meatt, cloathing, and education, which is all I petition for in his behalfe. When my sone





Southerland comes, I hope your Lordship will give him that freindly counsell to give me my own in peace and without delay, which will be his own advantage and his children's. I had not tyme to tell your Lordship that, wpon what your Lady, my dear sister, wrot to me of your Lordships being active for the good of the Church of Scotland, I made many glad, for I told it to as many as came to visit me, and they were well pleas'd to hear of it; so I hope your Lordship will act so as to convince all that what I told them was truth. I beseech your Lordship to haue a speciall care of your health now, when my sister is farr from yow. Give my humble and affectionate service to her, and beleive me that I am, in all sincerity, my Lord,

Your Lordships most affectionate humble servant,

J. W. SOUTHERLAND.

201. DAVID, LORD ELCHO, afterwards THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS, [to his Mother, MARGARET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS AND CROMARTIE.] A settled mode of life.

Weems, January 21, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

MADAM,—I had the honour of your letter, dated January 13. The letter which I wrote would come to your hands by the 15. To make compliments to so near a relation as a mother, either for her concern in her child or family, looks superfluous; for the maintaining or supporting the interest of either perpetuats there own esteem, and establishess there own character: so what is my part to say is, that I am very sencible of the good wishes your Ladyship hes for me, and the desire you have that I should be living in a settled way; and I shall alwayes live up to a right sense of it. I had certainly been more particualar in some of my former letters, had not I been waiting till I should hear more fully from you; and now that your Ladyship hes signified in part, but that you'r tyed up from being more particular, I



shall here beg leave to give yee my oppinion. Madam, you needed not lay your commands upon me to have waited of you, if I could possibly have done it; but my circumstances runns very parrarill with the countrys, both very low at present, and such a journey would infallibly bring my family under greater burthen still, which is one difficulty to me. The next, which is not a small one, is the waiting of yee where the Court is. As I told your Ladyship formerly, I have never yet seen the Queen, and where one neither hes (nor is likly to have) any business about the Court, there appearence there is uneasy to both; besides, a journey now would certainly put me into the mouths of every body for something. Your Ladyship hes already wrote to my sister, and you say you are to write to her Grace, so that its one to twenty but it took air, which would reach the person's ears likeways. And without there were more then probability of succeeding, and that either the foundations of this proceeded from a former acquaintance or from ane exact inquiry into my circumstances, she would certainly be upon her guard more to me then any body; and your Ladyship knows, however I might carry in it, yet a dissappointment of that nature would not all be easy to me. Now I hope you will consider of these difficultys effectually, for the more I know in the matter before any journey be undertaken it were better for both, for then none is exposed, and whatever is revealed to me shall be very sacred. This I doe indeed think both safer for the design and for me. I have said all here, so that I have nothing left to trouble my Lord with, only my most humble service, and that you'l both please rightly to weigh what I have said.

I am ever your most obedient son,

ELCHO.

The children, I thank God, are very well.



202. DAVID, LORD ELCHO, afterwards THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS, [to GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF CROMARTIE]. His mother's sickness.

February 25, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

MY LORD,—I had yours, and am extreemly sorry to find my mothers sickness hes not only been so tedious but so severe, and she hes not a body to stand it out. However, I thank God, it goes of, but she must look specially to herself now in her recovery; for, of all illnesses, rheumatism are most apt upon mismanagement to recurr, and a relaps might prove of the utmost danger to one of her weakness. To be sure, you'l be nothing the better for it, for, what by concern and toyll, you'l bear a proportionable share. This country affords noe news; only folks here are gaping to know how they are to be disposed of, and all sides knowing nothing of the matter. Only poor I live here closs in the country in the same morose solitude and unconcern as ever. The greatest satisfaction proceeds from a view of not being ane actor where there's danger, but one may come to suffer by others procurement, tho we are in most profound tranquility hitherto. I cannot, indeed, add one word more then what I said in my two last, so I'l give yee noe farther interruption at this time, only give my humbly duty to my mother, and beleive me alwayes, my Lord,

Your humble faithfull servant,

ELCHO.

203. GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF CROMARTIE, to [GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF MELVILLE]. His sorrow for the death of his wife.<sup>1</sup>

3 April 1705.

MY DEAR LORD,—Your letter and early testimony of your kindnes and respect to ane illustrious memory and a most unhappy man, is ane

<sup>1</sup> The originals of this letter and the six following letters are in the Charter-chest of Lady Elizabeth Jane Leslie Melville Cartwright.



everlasting endearment of yow to me. My Lord, I have with difficulty writ some letters to the Earl of Weems and some others this day. My dearest love haveing comited the pretious relick of herr body to me, I have ordored (I pray it arrive in safty) to be depositat in herr own house at Royston, till I come down and advise with herr sonne and herr children, that it may be consonant to that, I may say, incomparable discretion wherin my now saint lived and dyed, so I presume the ordinar ceremony of the Earl of Weems title needs not suspend. Yow will not exspect long, but will excuse whats shortly writ by the unhappiest man, and lately the happiest liveng; so my dear Lady Melvil will pardon me to give the nottice both to herr and to my deare coosign by your Lordship. I will hast to transport to Scotland the remnant of one who is as much and, I think, more as ever,

Your humble servant and faithfull coosine,

CROMERTIE.

204. DAVID, THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS, to DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Scotland. Threatened French invasion.

Thursday, March 18. [Indorsed 1708.]

I REJOYCE with you, my dear Leven, at the appearence we now have of the dissapointment of what so heartylie threatened us, and I would not runn such hazard again for a good deall; but are you sure we have beat them, for till that time I shall not be quite easie. I have once more been a wittness to the uncertainty and variableness of English tempers. The disquiet and consternation that was here, in my opinion, exceeded that with you very much, and the security, noise, and height of the spirit now is full as unreasonable att the uncertainty we're still in; and my observation upon the whole was, and still is, that to serve the Island of Brittain is a very hard task in cases of extreanity, for we were





pulling Sir George Bing in peices till Teusday, and I had much adoe to defend your lingring upon the road ; notwithstanding, I satisfied every body that noe express had overtakwn yee ; the winds blew hard north-east, and many things else that might convinced any body. The reason that made people uneasie was a simple story people had in there heads that Stewart had refused to let any order, message, or anything else sent by you into the castle of Edinburgh. We are still gaping here for more news from yee. I took care to speak with the D. of M. and Lord Treasurer every day to see if there was any thing to advertise yée of. I find all the preparations are to continue, both with respect to marching the troops and forwarding the train of artyliery here to be sent, and likeways all the recruits, both of horse and foot, that were making for the service of Flanders, were ordered down to you. I hope two or three dayes will lighten our spirits very much. We are still of the oppinion that Bing is strong enough for both the squadrons of Brest and Dunkirke, if joyned ; and now Baker is above twenty saill of fine ships, so that the French will have but bad seeking there way home. My dear Lord, we have all of us reason to thank God for this deliverance. If there is any express, I shall write more fully by it.

To the right honorable the Earle of Leven.

205. THE SAME to THE SAME. Sir George Byng recalled to the Downs.

London, March 29. [Indorsed 1708.]

WHAT this express carryes I'm not indeed wise enough to know ; however, it shall carry my letter. My dear brother, you know I've not heartylie loved some folks you were in great friendship with, and now I don't find but I have reason so to doe. They make daylie, as I'm informed, some ridiculous foolish story or other about the proceedings of our Scots councill and Scots generall. Folks are very



backward to impart any thing to me, as you may easily guess. They have it in there heads that you was angry that Sir George Bing lay still in Leith Roads, and they resent your finding fault with him extremly. They never ask me any questions, because I'm told they say that I would speak as you would have me. I hate of all things to suggest any manner of way what may create a misunderstanding, but in this case, of this sett of people, who pretended so much fondness of yee, by God, I cannot be silent; there unmannerly ingratitude is past bearing. There favourites, they say, join in this, but I don't find but they doe it with caution. We are here now in as great tranquillity as we were before in confusion, every body beleiving what they don't know. The D. of Malbrough went from this this morning. We are told the Parliament rises on Thursday. Sir George will be immediatly recalled to the Douns, and Brigadier Sabine to Ostend. I'm sorry you was not well when the express came away. I beleive Doctor Melvills affair will goe wrong. I'm sure I could doe noe more had he been my brother; there may be yet hopes if you be perremptory. I'm in great haste now, so, my dear Leven, God bliss yee.

I think really you should dispose of L. Mary, since her brother and I are so uncertain of ourselves. He keeps his health very well, and carries himself very well when he's by me.

To the right honorable the Earle of Leven.

206. DAVID, THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS, to his niece, [LADY MARY LESLIE, daughter of David, Earl of Leven]. Good wishes.

London, June 27, [*circa* 1708].

I WISH yee, my dear, a great many years, a kind, a rich, and a loving handsome husband, three sons and one daughter, which, in my opinion, is somewhat better then four daughters and one son. I was



in hopes you stood not in ceremony about the return of letters till my Lord your father told me you did. If it were not for denying myself the pleasure of hearing from yee I should give yee free liberty not to answer mine, and yet you should see how punctuall a writer I should be. However, I think its better delay the experiment till another time. We shall be with yee in four or five weeks, and whereever I am you have a

Most affectionate uncle and faithfull servant,



Your father hes invited some of your friends to-night to drink your health.

207. DAVID, THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS, to DAVID, EARL OF LEVEN,  
Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Scotland. Unfriends  
to the Earl of Leven in London.

London, August 27. [Indorsed 1708.]

HAVING nothing, my dear Leven, worth your while to write yee of from the road, I delay'd it till now. I had a very good journey, and came here last night, and am both angry and surprized to find noe letters from the Wemyss, but I beleive I shall never be able to reform that place. Earl Mar and Sir D. Nairn both unaskt assures me that the Queen is to write to yee to-day, which goes by the Teusdays pacquett. By that you may conclude when it comes to your hands what justice is done yee by her servants, which I beg you 'l satisfie me



of by a letter, that I may be the more capable of serving yee. By all I can as yet learn the extravagant heat of the Juncto is not a bitt lessen'd, but encreasees so much that I am possitively assur'd they must spare saill else there party will never keep up with them. There spleen at you is particular, and they continue in assuring there party of there strict enquiry into our elections with a very particular manner. Its mightylie fear'd and surmized here of a great man's being more in there measures then ever was supposed of him. There's a great councill now att my Lord Sunderland's house in the country, where he is present. I shall be more capable to inform yee farther when I return from Windsour.

E. Leven.

We expect every minutt to hear of a battle in Flanders ; since the two armies are so near one another, they scarce can escape fighting. The French are still about 1500 superior in numbers of brigads and squadrons, but they scarce ever are so strong as ours are.

208. THE SAME to THE SAME. News of the battle of Oudenburgh.  
Indorsed 23d September 1708.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—I had your letter this minutt, and least I should not have time to write tomorrow, I now tell you, in answer to yours, that its thought the Parliament will not sitt precisely att the day its appoint'd, but very soon afterwards. There's ane express just now com'd in from Ostend with the good news that we've had a stroke att M. La Motts little army near Oudenburgh. We've kill'd 3000, taken 1500 prissoners, with there artillery and baggage, and the convoy with 800 wagons have gote to Lisle. Poor Elphinston, my Lord Balmerino's son, is dead of his wounds. I wish yee a good journey to the north ; if any thing happens I shall write it yee.





There's ane express just arriv'd that M. Bouffliers having write to D. Vendosme how much he was straitened for powder, they sent from Douay 1500 or 2000 horse with each a large sake behind him, who returning sooner then was expected to Lisle and bearing our signall, the town fir'd upon them and sprung a mind and kill'd severall, which alarm'd our army, and then we fell upon them, made rare havock and many prissoners, and gotte all the ammunition.

E. Leven.

209. THE SAME TO THE SAME. Advising him to get a house in London. Indorsed 12th October 1708.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—Your Lordship is pleas'd to be a very lazy writter. I've heard nothing from yee now a great while. I'm told your north country journey was very splendid, and none but the great Lord Ross was ever treated with so great respect. I long to hear when yee intend to come away, for its pity you should loss so good weather, and the season now wears out apace, and I beleive to you'd think it proper to be in town sometime before the Parliament sitts. If you please I think you should order some body to look out for a house for yee, for if you delay it untill yee arrive you'l find it difficult to please yourself, for the town beginns to fill very fast. I see Collonell Moncrief this morning, but he knows nothing of yee.

We still continue in great suspence about Lisle, tho all our letters promise very fair, so in all liklyhood we shall have a tedious campaigne. It is beleiv'd when the seige is over that the armys can scarce shunn to justle one another, for the French seem resolv'd to dispute our retreat, and have been working hard upon a line with redoubts for that purpose. Every thing continues quiet here as yet, since most peoples heads are taken up with there diversions att Newmarcat. How soon that is over things may happen to open a little more, so I should



indeed think it adviseable you were in the way. The Court is still at Windsour, and may stay its thought so long as this fine weather holds. Give my most humble service to my Lord and Lady Haddo and my Lord Aberdeen if you'r still there, and let me have your commands in any thing you want to know that I can tell yee, or any thing to be done here before your arrivall, which shall be punctually observed.

I am, my dear Leven, yours.

210. DAVID, THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS, to GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF CROMARTIE. His manner of life in London.<sup>1</sup>

London, June 2, 1709.

MY DEAR LORD,—I would have write to yee before now, but my wife has been very ill, and continues so. She's with child about three months, and I doubt extreamly that she can keep it a few dayes. How soon this inconvenience is over one way or another, I goe to Thistleworth to stay most of the summer. My dear Lord, I thank yee heartylie for your good advice in returning to Scotland, and I dare say you give it with great affection to me and my family. But severall things concurred to make it impossible for me to doe [so] this summer, since my stay here was absolutly necessar; as likewayes impossible for me to carry my wife there: and I must beg leave so far to differ from your oppinion as to be really persuad'd I live with full less expence here then I could doe there. I have bought a house here in Soho Square, one of the greatest pennyworths ever I see. I have reduced my family to as narrow a compass as is possible, and I'm sure noe body lives more private. My cook hes noe occassion to show his skill, and my equipage cannot be plainer then it is. I keep noe table, nor noe company eats with me but very rarely, when I desire it, and these only the admiralls and gentlemen that are concern'd in the sea and

<sup>1</sup> The originals of this and the following letter are in Cromartie Charter-chest.



Admiralty Office, and with this design only—not to loose my friendship and interest with them, so as I may still be as serviceable as I can to serve my country or countrymen. Now, dear Cromartie, I believe when you are inform'd of this, you'l be somewhat more of my mind. As for the rattle and pleasures of London, noebody is or can be less affected with these then I am, and my wife hes as little taste of them as one could wish. Playes and operas and park are places either of us are very seldom seen in, and, baiting vissits, which we have noe fondness for, but must just keep up mannerly with the world, we live as retir'd as if we were in the Highlands of Scotland. But the main thing of all is, how could I pretend to retire from the Parliament so long as I am in the Queen's service, and favour to[o], I hope. That would indeed be ane effectuall way to loose both; and then, I doubt, my estate would suffer more by my being throuen upon it, then all the advantage my overseeing of it could amount to. I shall only say one thing as to that, that noe Earle of Weems ever was, that spent so little out of his own estate by a half and more then I've done these four year past, which I reckon very good service done the family. And should I now retire, when, suppose I'm not very young, yet but in a manner entering into the world, I know, and you know, both that one is pritty much forgott, and often more neglect'd. This is not [to] say I've turned my back upon Scotland, for I doe resolve to be as much and as often there as I can. Now, I know you 'l expect some news, notwithstanding this long letter. There is a present stand to the peace, for the French king will not sign these articles Mr. Torey agreed to. He now demand[s] the article relating to the Spanish monarchy to runn thus: That he shall withdraw his troops to ane indefinite time, since the distance straittens him to name it, and that he shall not, directly nor indirectly, assist his grandson. He complains likewayes of the hardship upon [him] in giving up all the Upper Alsace to the empire. The time of his signing expires on Saturday, so a little time will clear us.



I don't believe, nor doe I find our ministry knows one jott more then this. The town sayes this is but a show of bargaining, and that he must sign, since we are not to part with one jott of our demands. Other people say his geting in the corn fleet, and the clergy's offer of there plate ammusses him once more to try his fortune a few months.

Dear Cromertie, God bliss yee!

I remember of a bloud ston my mother had; if your Lordship hes it in your custody I would beg it, for it would be of great use now in my little family.

211. THE SAME to THE SAME. Advising him to come to London.

London, July 31st, 1709.

I SHUNN'D writing a melancholly letter to my dear Lord Cromerty all this while, because I knew you are too sencibly toucht with what concerns me and mine, so I would not give yee any disquiet upon ane uncertainty. I thank God my wife is now in a much more probable way of recovery, but, upon my word, she runn a great risque indeed. Dear Cromartie, there was noe trick in it, nor any accident I could ascribe it to. She still continues, tho' in such state of health that she visits none, nor is very willing to runn the fatigue of receiving any. We have been here in town all this summer, but how soon I can carry her out of town we intend to goe to Thistleworth for a few weeks. I have been so good a nurse, and attended so closely, that I've been but one night at Windzour ever since the Queen went there, and had not gone then if I had not want'd to speak to the Queen, and I was not so much as seen there by any body else.

I'm sorry to find by none of your letters soe much as the least mention of any thoughts you have of being in London. I shall not hear again trouble yee with my oppinion att large of the necessity, I





take it, for your interests. I have often plead hard with yee, and, upon my word, I continue to doe so still. The Queen, I daresay, hes great esteem and kindness for yee, which, by your own presence, may turn to your service ; and certainlie to doe yee justice, people's demands are much easier shifted when they are not eye witnesses to what passes in there concerns, and your presence might turn luekwarm kindnesses to reall services, and enemies that are so for nothing not to venture to resist what they may only now doe by delays. But beleive me that I cannot bring myself to beleive all these to be your enemies, who you may very well imagine to be so by there not doing what is in there power to serve yee. Many people are passively one's friends ; that is, in my oppinion, barely not to wish one ill, which I'm apt to beleive is the case ; for, to my knowlege, lazyness, or the fear of being troublesom to the higher powers, is the great rock whereon almost all business splets : and to my knowlege likeweyes, there are few or noe friends that can shake off these two evill fears. I'm sure I may say so to my own experience even of these very people you think uses you after the same manner. But, my dear Lord, I doe beg you'l think of this, and let me know your resolutions upon it.

All that's here goe in the usuall rutine of the summer. How soon I'm entirely settled in what I have both hopes and assurances shall be, I shall acquaint yee.

The story is how we shall have the citadell of Tournay. We are [to] force the French lines, so that by there retireing into there old camp of Leus we shall then demolish there lines between Valenciens and Doway, and after that attacque these two places, which we don't question will be ours : and by that time the season will be over ; so if there happens noe treaty, we shall keep the field all winter, as Prince Eugen proposed last year. But Mr. de Torey and the President de Roulieu's being hanging still about Vallancien all this summer, and sending severall times letters to the Duke [of] Marlborough, makes us



imagine we shall have a treaty renew'd early ; and some people attributes our not marching already from Tournay proceeds from that.

I understand there are clerks in the severall countys appointed for taking up the rolls of the crimes in the respective shires. My chamberlain at the Weems, who is my relation, and a sencible man bred to the law, having serv'd long in Gibson of Duriés chambers, I beleive may answer your Lordship's purposes very well in such a station. He is very diligent and capable ; so if you'l order the clerk of the justiciary to name him, I may say I've recommend'd one to yee of sufficiency.

I wonder I never hear from the Dutchess of Monmouth. I wish her very well, and shall ever doe so.

I'm sure you'r weary now reading my long letter.

Fifteen Letters from ALEXANDER BAYNE, Barrister, Lincoln's Inn, London, to DAVID, THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS.<sup>1</sup>

212. (1.) Count Galla's disgrace.

London, 1st November 1711.

. . . I'm very well assured, notwithstanding the storys that the Whiggs put about, that Mr. Buys has declared in his masters name that the preliminaries as concerted are a good foundation for a treaty. You wou'd be surpris'd to hear of Count Galla's disgrace for want of manners to the Queen, being allwayes reckon'd a sober well bred man ; but so it is that he has been very rude, and talkt saucily to her on the subject of the peace, insomuch that he is not only forbid the Court, and deny'd any audience of leave, but commanded to depart the

<sup>1</sup> These letters are unsigned, but it appears from other letters that the writer was Mr. Alexander Bayne, barrister, of Lincoln's Inn, London, and that he was agent for managing the Nune-

ham estates, then in possession of the Earl of Wemyss through his marriage with Mary, daughter of Sir John Robinson of Farningwood, in the county of Northampton.



kingdom forthwith. Besides, I'm told he was tampering with the ministry by concerting with the party that opposes the peace; and it was he who, having got the preliminaries to communicate to his master, sent them presently to the press, for they were not published with the knowledge of the ministry. . . .

213. (2.) Project to burn the Pope and others in effigy.

London, 20 November 1711.

. . . WE have at last the agreeable news confirm'd that thers a perfect good understanding between the Dutch and us as to the peace. On Saturday, being Queen Elizabeths day, there was a project to burn the Pope as usually upon that day, but with another kind of solemnity, for there was to have been large figures, richly drest, representing the Pope, French King, and Pretender, with a great number of Cardinals, and a pageant made for their vehicle, to be attended with 200 flambeaus. What was the design of this I can not tell you, but as it is plain by the expense of the preparations that more than ordinary people were concerned in the contrivance, and consequently it was to be presumed it had some meaning, so the thing being timely discovered, the Government seized all the pagentry that morning, and rais'd the train bands to prevent any mob. It is generally believed by disinterested people that this might have rais'd a mob, and if once up, nobody can tell what they might not have done, nor what designing people might have attempted, had they found the mob disposed towards their [designs].

214. (3.) His places taken from Marlborough.

London, 3 December 1711½.

. . . WE have a new world here. P[rince] Eugene is still a coming, but my Lord Ma——gh has all his places taken from him, &ca, as the



prints will inform you. The new Lords were yesterday introduced, and the Queen sent a message to that House desiring they wou'd adjourn to the time the House of Commons had done, which occasioned a great debate; and it came to the question, which the Court carried by thirteen. Our Lords representation was graciously received, and the Queen told them she wou'd endeavour 'to redress what they complained of. Her answer to the Lords adress, which I told you of sometime ago, was of another kind, for she told them that she thought she had sufficiently explained herself to them in that matter of the several interests of the allies at the opening of the sessions. We shall now hear of changes every day, and we conclude by this great remove that the peace is done. . . .

215. (4.) Duke of Hamilton's patent—The Occasional Bill.

Friday, 14th December [1711], 12 at night.

. . . A DAY next week is appointed in the House of Lords for D. Ham.'s patent, which every body agrees he will lose, and consequently the D. of Queensberry's will fall, so here's at once an end to all promotions that way. Hard fate or ill management, indeed, that a man's servant may possibly be what by no possibility he can be himself. The Occasional Bill is to be brought into the House of Lords next week, but whether by the E. Noting. or E. Wharton, is doubtful. The design of this is thought to be to put things in a combustion, and be the greater weight and difficulty in my Ld. J—r, all to obstruct the peace. This you'll think is an odd measure for the W—gs to take. It seems they think they have a desperate game, and possibly it may recoil on them with a vengeance. Wee have nothing else particular.

There was an advertisement in some of the Post Boys one day this last week, that whereas a tall, thin, black gentleman, with a long black wig, black coat, long pocketts, and slit sleeves, had departed





from his friends he had been born and bred with, etc., whoever shou'd contribute to bring him back shou'd be thankfully taken notice of; and to counter this there was another delivered on the streets, that whereas French peace was a very dear commodity in the time of the last ministry, these were to give notice that there was just now fresh imported from France, to be had at a reasonable rate in several places in town, viz., at the Great House in York Buildings, Mr. St. J—s office, Mr. P—rs, and Arth. M—s, where due attendance was given; that P—r shou'd draw and A. M—re wait.

Prince Eugene was expected here yesterday with remonstrances from the Emperour. The Queen's coaches went, but we hear to-day they are returned empty. Whether he came over, and was forbid proceeding by the Queen knowing his errand, is uncertain. The passes for the Plenipo. went off yesterday, and my Lord P. Seal goes on Tuesday.

216. (5.) The Queen's message to the Houses of Parliament.

London, 19th January 171 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

MY LORD,—The Queen, as I told you by last post, was to have gone to the House, but being afflicted so much with the gout she was unable to go, and therefore sent each House a message acquainting them with what she designed to have spoke to them herself. Her message to the Commons, you'll see in the votes, and that to the Lords, was all the same, but further recommended to them to find out some expedient for satisfying the Scots Peers in the affair of the D. Brandon's patent, upon which we expected they wou'd have gone yesterday, but they did not, and adjourned till Monday. The Whiggs say in Mr. Walpole's case, which you'll see in the votes, that tho' its hard one shou'd suffer for speaking his mind, yet that gentleman has allways been so needlessly offensive, that they can't pity him very much. . . .



## 217. (6.) Bill relating to Scots Peers.

London, 22d January 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

MY LORD,—Since mine by last post, the D. of Somersett is out. But the D—ss still keeps her key, and nobody can tell but she may keep it still, for, as matters stand now, the Q—n's inclination to favour one is a good lay for holding what one has. A Toleration Bill for Scotland had leave to be brought into the House of Commons, and in the House of Lords, when they were to have gone upon the busines recommended by the Queen relating to the Scots Peers, after a long silence, wherein every body seem'd unwilling to beginn, my Lord Treasurer proposed an expedient, that in place of the 16 elective Peers from Scotland, there shou'd be a greater number chosen out of the Peers to sitt there as hereditary Peers, and the number without doors is said to be 32. That the rest of the Scots Peers shall, during their life, have their titles continued to them and all the other priviledges save that of sitting in the House, and that after their death there sons shall be commoners. This proposal was a thing so new and unexpected that very little was said to it, and they adjourned the consideration thereof till Friday. So by the Saturndays post I shall be able to give you some further account of it. You have enclosed the Lord's adress on the Queen's message, and the answer. . . .

## 218. (7.) Grievance of the Scottish Peers—Toleration Bill.

London, 31st January 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

. . . THE Lords have done nothing in the affair wherin you are so much concerned, so that our Peers here do not know what measures to take upon the little notice and regard thats had of them. Some have withdrawn, I'm told, and resolve not to go into the House again till the grievance is redress'd, or at least till they discover some inclination



towards it. But more of this by my next, when perhaps I can speak with more certainty.

The Tolleration for Scotland goes on in the House of Commons, and some few of our members oppose it warmly, who design'd to clog it with the abjuration, but understanding that the promoters of it were prepared, if they shou'd offer such a clause, to offer another abjuration for a test to their clergy, viz. of the Solemn League and Covenant, it has been therefore thought adviseable for them to hold their tongue. We heard that our Cardinal was to have prefer'd a petition to the House to obstruct that matter. But they say Mr. Lockharts having got into his pockett The History of the Rye House Assassination, the Cardinal smelt it and forbore. We know nothing of matters at Utrecht, but that my Lord Strafford is so usefull abroad, that the being Master of the Horse is put in commission till his return. My Lady Catharine Hide succeeds my Lady Rialtoun.

Sir Gilbert Elliot proposed in the House that all in places in Scotland shou'd be obliged to go to the Established Church there, by a parity of reason from the late Act. No body thought fitt to second it, the laughter in the House was so immoderate.

219. (8.) Threats of the Scottish Peers to leave the House.

London, 2d February 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

. . . Now do I every day bliss the stars that kept you from being one of the 16, as you'll find by and by I have reason.

I have formerlie told you that there was no great appearance of any inclination to redress the grievance they complain of on the part of the majority who gave them occasion to complain. Whatever reason the Torys, who joined against the Court in that matter, had to do so, I shall not attempt to guess at; but without any great art of divination, one may say that the motive the other side had was purely to dis-



oblige and irritate, with the hopes of playing an aftergame to disturb the present course of affairs, and, if possible, divert them into another channell. And I am sorry to tell you that they are too likely to effect their design, for our Lords, being impatient under their incapacity of being made Peers of Brittain, and the ministry not having it in their power to get it redress'd just at this very time, one half of them have conceived an opinion that they are at present neglected by the ministry, and that after the peace it will be more so, and threaten the other half into the same common measures with them. What measures they are I cannot pretend to tell you. Some say they are to leave the House as one man; others that they are all to join the other side; and one or t'other, I can assure you, the ministry are affraid of. Thers very few but say our Peers have reason to be uneasy and complain; but at this time the question is, how far they ought to show a resentment to obstruct the measures that are taken to get rid of the difficultys we have so long laboured under. A personal resentment is never justifiable but when the cause is certain and evident, and even were it so in this case, one must consider also that attempting the overthrow of that great man is in effect wounding a higher person through his sides. And, after all, what can they rely on were things to be again as they were not long ago? Well, I wish they may do nothing to occasion a just reflection against them, or which they may have the least occasion to repent of. For my part, who am but an inconsiderable looker on, is only to wish, and I do heartily, that the Q—n may never have an occasion to say that the Scots had no regard for her personal ease and quiet. I shall end my letter with what a gentleman said to me this morning. I am sorry, said he, that your country men are going to give themselves so little a figure, as by way of redress to join them who have been the chief authors and contrivers of the injury, and thereby contribute to effect a thing which was the sole end these men had proposed themselves by affronting them.





## 220. (9.) The Toleration Bill.

London, 9th February 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

. . . THIS is a long letter not to have a word news in it yet. I'm therefore now come to tell you that the Tolleration has pass'd the House of Commons, and at the 3d reading, the House being thin, they desired a division, which they found themselves mightily mistaken in, for they against it were only 17, those for it 152. Sir David Dalrimple made a long speech against it, and was answered by my friend Mr. James Murray, who had spoke before very handsomly on that Bill. It seems Sir David said that there has been no blood nor persecution since the Revolution, to which Sir Simeon Stewart answered that he had heard quite otherwise, and he believed the murder at Glencoe could not be unknown to that gentleman. The resolutions in relation to the state of the warr and how we have been bubbled by all our allies, have made a great many converts in the city. Nere a one of our Scots Lords have gone to the House these three days, whether they'll stick to it is hard to tell; or whether, if they do, they'll be the better for't. All our packetts are t'other side, and we long to hear from Utrecht.

221. (10.) The Queen's assurance to redress the grievance of the  
Scottish Peers.London, 23 February 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

. . . I'm told that the Scots Peers have all been closeted, and had all the imaginable assurances from the Queen that she wou'd redress their complaints when the time came, that a peace strengthen'd her hands, and that therefore she hoped they wou'd now stand by her in order to bring that time to pass. But I hear this is not satisfactory, and that a part will go to the House, and a part stay from it; but till I'm sure which is which, I can not be more particular. That packett I mention'd



lately directed to the Houses of Parliament, was, it seems, a complaint against the D. Marl. by some Dutchman that furnished the armie in some things. I can give you no manner of other news, for we wait mails; but in the city they make it an even wager that the K. of France is dead.

222. (11.) Death of Prince Eugene's nephew.

London, 26 February 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

. . . SOME of the people of great intelligence, I hear, pretend to have the demands the allies have made, but we do not know any thing of them yet over the town. The young Prince, the nephew of P. Eugene, who came over with him, died yesterday morning of the small pox, being just in a manner knocked in the head as poor Lord a Bath was, having like him got in with my Lord Lincoln, D. Mountague, and a sett of young rakes that play the devil. All our news bear that the K. of France is intirely recovered, which is agreeable news to every body that wish a speedy conclusion to this treaty, for a new management there would have [hurt] the measures extremly that have been taken, or at least retarded their execution for a year longer. We are of opinion here that the Dauphines death will facilitate a peace, for it is reasonable to believe the French king will desire to see things settled, now he is so old and his heir so young.

223. (12.) An infernal machine.

London, 11 November 1712.

WE have a story here much talkt of but not as yet generally believed. They say that t'other day a packett as large as a good folio was sent by the penny post, directed to my Lord Treasurers porter, and underneath to my Lord Treasurer. The packett was carried up to my



Lord while he was a shaving. Dr. Swift being with him, my Lord desired him to open it up. Upon tearing the cover the Dr. said he smelt gunpowder. My Lord lookt at the box, which was curiously tyd up with pack thread, and bid him sett it asside till he had done shaving. Then my Lord, with a pair of scizars, cut the threads on all sides, and upon opening found two cockt pistols loaded and two other machines of execution with the same contents and a train of wild fire to discharge them, which, it seems, was so contriv'd with springs that had any endeavour been made to open the lid of the box without cutting the pack thread on all sides, the pistoles would have gone off. I was told this day by a gentleman of my acquaintance that he heard my Lord Arran say he had it so told from my Lord T—rs own mouth.

224. (13.) Duel of the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mohun.

London, 22d November 1712.

. . . DUKE HAMILTON is extremely lamented by people of all conditions, to which the character of the persone by whose hand he fell adds not a little. The first account we had was that M[acartne]y had come up and given him his death's wound, but no body could allow themselves to believe such a barbarity; however, yesterday I heard that the Councill, after examination of all the persones that were there, and of the surgeons as to the place and nature of the wound, are of opinion that it could not be given by my Lord Mohun, and this morning I am told that Col. Hamilton has been before the Councill, at their 4th sitting on this affair, and deposes that while he was a helping up the Duke from off the Lord M—n, on whom he had fallen, by pushing home that last thrust which bore him down, M—y came in behind him, and gave my Lord D[uke] that stab; but this I can not affirm for a truth. . . .



## 225. (14.) Addison's Tragedy.

London, 4th Aprile 1713.

MY LORD,—This serves chiefly to acquaint your Lordship that, after a long expectation, at length we have had the news last night that the peace is sign'd by all the parties concern'd, except the Emperour, who, agreeable to the dignity of his Imperial Majesty, they say must be the last, in every peace, that comes in. I writ last post, to which I refer. My Lord Northesk would rather have you take a handsome pedestal for the dial than a statue, as I writ formerly to you was my own taste. However, I shall wait your answer to that. We are in mighty hopes of entertainment from Mr. Addison's tragedy; every body talks of it as something extraordinary. My friend Mr. Hughes show'd me a copy of verses he had made on that occasion. At a second view my memory serv'd me to carrie them off lawful prize, for what a man comes by that way can't be said to [be] a stealth of the author's copy. They are not yet presented; however, I have the author's leave to make use of my memory to oblige your Lordship with a copy of one of the most finish'd poems of that kind perhaps ever you saw.

## To Mr. ADDISON on his Tragedy of Cato.

Tho' Cato shines in Virgil's Epick song,  
 Prescribing laws among th' Elysian throng,  
 Tho' Lucan, too, exalted by his name  
 O'er gods themselves, has rais'd the heroes fame,  
 The Roman stage did ne'er his image see  
 Drawn at full length, a task reserv'd for thee.  
 By thee we see the finished figure rise,  
 And awful march before our ravish'd eyes;  
 We hear his voice asserting virtue's cause,  
 His fate renew'd, our deep attention draws,  
 Excites by turns our buisy hopes and fears,  
 And all the patriot in thy scene appears.





On Tyber's banks thy thought was sure inspir'd;  
 When there, to some indulgent grove retir'd,  
 Rome's ancient fortunes rolling in thy mind,  
 Thy happy muse this manly work design'd ;  
 Or in a dream thou saw'st Rome's genius stand,  
 And, holding Cato in his sacred hand,  
 Point out th' immortal subject of thy Lays,  
 And ask this Labour to record his praise.  
 'Tis done ; he lives again, and charms our age,  
 While nobler morals grace our British stage.  
 Great Shakespear's ghost, the solemn strain to hear  
 (Methinks I see the laurel'd shade appear),  
 Will hover o'er the scene, and wondering, view  
 His fav'rite Brutus rival'd thus by you.  
 Such Roman greatness in each action shines,  
 Such Roman eloquence adorns your lines,  
 That sure this year the Sibills books foretold,  
 And in some mystick leaf was seen inroll'd :—  
 ' Rome, turn thy mournful eyes from Africk's shore,  
 Nor in her sands thy Cato's tomb explore,  
 Ere thrice six hundred years the circling sun  
 His annual race shall thro' the Zodiack run,  
 An isle remote his monument shall rear,  
 And every generous Briton pay a tear.'

226. (15.) Addison's Play of Cato.

London, 25th April 1713.

. . . My Lord Duke of Ormond, Lord Bolingbroke, Lord Dartmouth,  
 and several others with them, went last night to Cato. Some of the  
 Whigs before, by clapping some of Cato's finest sentiments, would  
 seem to have designed to appropriate these solely to themselves as  
 Whigish sentiments. But this company clapp'd these sentiments and  
 all the play prodigiously, and made a purse of 50 guineas, and sent for  
 Booth, who acts Cato, to come to their box after the play was done,  
 and my Lord Bolingbroke told him that there were some Torie guineas



besides claps for him, for talking so well against the Perpetual Dictator. There's a box taken to-day for my Lord Treasurer, Lord Chancelour, Lord Chief Justice Trevor, etc. Mr. Addison's modesty will not permit him to print Mr. Hughes verses with the play. It is to have no dedication, no preface, but plain as it is, without any other ornament.

227. DAVID, THIRD EARL OF WEMYSS, to GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF CROMARTIE. That he could not stand parting with him.<sup>1</sup>

Weems, July 11th, 1714.

MY DEAR LORD,—I'm not att all surpriz'd that you'r angry with me, nor really that it may seem odd to you my running out of town so hastylye. I can't say but it gave me a great deall of pain, but not so much by the fiftyeth part as it would have done the taking leave of you, for that is a weakness in me. I'm oblig'd to acknowlege that I had rather doe any thing as part with one I love in any kind of particular way. I have, in the time I have liv'd in the world, suffer'd very much that way, and it raises such a cloud of melancholy remembrances upon me, that I daresay you'l forgive me, now that yow know the reall cause, and believe me that there's noe man upon earth that wishes you better both in time and to eternity. In faith, Cromartie, I never thought (altho' I lov'd you very well) but I could have stood the shock of parting with you; but I found when it came to earnest I could not venture it.

I shall endeavour to obey all your commands and good advices to the outmost of my power, and I wish to God you had continued nearer me to have renew'd them often. I wish you happylye home (since it must be so) with all my soull, and will endeavour to amuse myself with some hopes of your return; but wherever you are, may God

<sup>1</sup> Original Letter in Cromartie Charter-chest.



Almighty bliss you. My heart grows really to big, dear Cromartie, to say any more but that

I am sincerely yours.

Indorsed : "E. Weyms, 1714."

228. JAMES, FOURTH EARL OF WEMYSS, to DAVID, THIRD EARL OF LEVEN. Wishing his presence, being in love with Miss Charteris.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, Tuesday, September 13, 1720.

MY LORD,— I am convinced the Highland servant whom I sent to you yesterday has committed some blunder about your house. I am sorry for it, but cannot help it. I take occasion by your own servant sent over by Mr. Alexander, to tell you that I look upon it as a singular obligation if you 'l do me the favour to be here to-morrow. My Lord, I have none other but your Lordship to whom I can trust the management of a busyness which I could have trusted to nobody but my father, if he had been alive. I thought once to have told you it by word of mouth, but I must now gett over that formality and tell you plainly in this, that I am in love with M. Charters. I have been often in her company. I have informed myself of her humour from others whom I can trust that know her better than it is possible for me to do. I flatter myself with the hopes that your Lordship will approve of my choice. Her father is now here, and is to sett out for London on Saturday next. I have powerfull rivalls. I dare not do even what I may without first haveing the honour to discourse with you of the whole matter, all which, if you 'l be pleased to consider, and withall to mind that you was once in love yourself, I 'll make no doubt but you 'l comply with my most humble desire, which I do repeat again with all earnestness, and assure you that by doing it you 'l infinitely oblige, my

<sup>1</sup> Original Letter in Leven and Melville Charter-chest.



Lord, your Lordship's most affectionate nephew and most obedient  
humble servant,

WEMYSS.

To the right honourable the Earle of Leven, att Balgony.

229. WILLIAM MONCREIF, Edinburgh, to DAVID, THIRD EARL OF  
LEVEN. Marriage of Lord Wemyss and Miss Charteris.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, September 19, 1720.

MY LORD,—This is to let your Lordship know that my Lord Wemyss was married to M. Charteres, Saturday betwixt nine and ten at night, with all quietness, no body except these that were trusted having known anything of it untill about six next morning, that her mother came to her room to call her. A little after that my Lord's letter to Mr. Charteres and my Lady's to him, and another to her mother, wer delivered, which put him wholly out of doubt where she was, for before that he had sent Mr. Caddel to my Lord Strathmore's lodgings and my Lord Wemysses, who returned answer that he found that the first was in bed alon and that the second had not been at home that night. The mother has covertly sent how do yee's to my Lord. This is all I trouble your Lordship with at present.

I am, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

WM. MONCREIF.

Mr. Charteres went of for London on Sunday, but left his lady. My Lord and my Lady are to be with her privately this evening. When my Lord determines himself of the time of leaving this, he'l immediately send an express to your Lordship. He thinks my Lord Northesk may be with your Lordship by this time, and begs you'l be pleased to communicat this with him and my Lords Balgony and Coupar, and his other friends, and that you'l all excuse his not writing. My Lord

<sup>1</sup> Original Letter in Leven and Melville Charter-chest.





Glasgow is with him and many others coming and going. He is to write one himself if possible to my Lady N. Esk, and send it by Willy.

[Postscript by the Earl of Wemyss.]

MY LORD,—In the hurry that I am now in with visits I have no more time than to tell you that my wife gives your Lordship her humble service, and likewise to my Lord Northesk, my Lord Balgony and my Lady, my Lord Coupar and Lady Betty, Mr. Alexander, and all other friends that are with you; and that I am,

My Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

WEMYSS.

230. JAMES, FOURTH EARL OF WEMYSS, to DAVID, THIRD EARL OF LEVEN. Conveyance of the marriage party to the Wemyss.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, September 27, 1720.

MY LORD,—I am resolved to bring over my wife on Thursday's morning, God willing, if it be fair. I beg your Lordship will be pleased to deliver the enclos'd, and to join your earnest desire with mine that my Lady Balgony would be so good as to be at the Wemyss when we come. How we shall be transported from Kinghorn is of some difficulty. I should be glad my wife were in my own coach, driven by my own coachman, and with six horses, whereas your Lordship knows I have but four. I do not know but two of yours with my four might do well. We are neither to have great company nor many. All the woemen I fancy will be my wife, Lady Dundass, Mrs. Edgar, and their woemen. The men again are Dundass, Mr. Edgar, and Mr. James Bruce, so that to accommodate them another coach may be needfull, and yet I know not how to have it unless your four horses remaining

<sup>1</sup> Copy Letter in Leven and Melville Charter-chest.



might bring your coach to Kinghorn. I am to be on horseback myself, but all this with great submission.

I am, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,  
WEMYSS.

231. Rev. JOHN WYLIE, Minister of Clackmannan,<sup>1</sup> to JAMES, FOURTH EARL OF WEMYSS. Dissuasive against Episcopacy.

Clackmannan, November 28, 1720.

MY NOBLE LORD,—I beg the favour that ye will with candour, calmness, and seriousness read and ponder the following lines, and put the questions to your selfe; and if any thing seem more plain than pleasant, beleve that it proceeds from an hearty welwisher of your soul and family.

Q. 1. What should move you to foresake the pure worship of God in the Church? Is there any thing in it but what is warranted by the Word of God?

Q. 2. Did ever any of your family make such a step towards Popery as you have don by setting up Popish ceremonial worship, except your father when disobliged? I pray you walk in his first steps and not in his last, in which he lived not long, nor she who helped to pervert him. He came as spotless a youth from the colledge as any of his age and rank in the nation, and would have died so if ill company, etc.

Q. 3. Why should ye live like a speckled bird alon besid your neighbour Earles?

Q. 4. Why should you give occasion to the Government to look on you as a Jacobite, and render yourselfe and family incapable of publick trust? The English look on our Scottish meeting house people as disaffected to the present Government. When the Jacobite

<sup>1</sup> Rev. John Wylie was translated from Saline, 1699, where he remained till his death in June where he had been minister, to Clackmannan, 1728. [Fasti Ecclesie Scoticanæ, p. 696.]



members in Parliament, under Queen Ann, pleaded for toleration to them, the E. of Oxford had a speech wherin he represented them as very disaffected to her Majesties' Government, and concluded it saying, Abjuration or no toleration to them. Its well known all the time of prelacie set up after King Charles 2. came to the thron, they never attempted to set up the English service. I know the curats then abhorred bowing to the altar, surplice, cross in baptism, and the holy dayes, as Popish, and contrary to God's word, and all of them continued to contemn them till some unworthy men since the Revolution, to curry favour in England, complied; but some worthy men among them would never to their dying day comply.

Q. 5. Why should ye violent your worthy ladies inclinations who demonstrated her excessive love to you at the expence of her father's hatred? Do you think that it's the way to gain her father's approbation of your marriage, when he sees ye maletreat his daughter at that rate? And may not she say to you as Samson's wife said to him in a case wherin his honour and profite was concerned, Thou doest but hate me and lovest me not. Judges 14. 16. May not your Lady say ye do not love her heartily when ye will not go with her to the pure worship, as I am perswaded she inclines, seeing it's your duty as well as hers, and all of us, upon pain of damnation? Husbands should give no occasion of bitternes to their wives. Col. 3. 19. How can it be but bitternes to her, if she has a sponk of true love to God, when she finds her husband will not worship God with her as he has appointed, but sets up the inventions of men condemned by the Lord and by Article 15 of the Confession of Faith of the Church of Scotland, registrat amongst King James 6 his Acts of Parliament 1567. In the close of the said article, it's said we affirm not only these to be evil works which are done against God's command, but these also in matters of religion and worshipping of God which have no other assurance (or warrand) but the invention and opinion of men. And this Confession



is made the standard of our religion in the test made and imposed by the Parliament under King Charles 2., the Duke of York commissioner, Aug. 13, 1681, wherein all our bishops wer members. And the Church of England, in the preface to the Service-book, on the head of ceremonies, near the close, sayes expressly the ceremonies on just causes may be altered and ar not to be esteemed equal with God's law, and that by their institutions they do not condemn other nations nor prescribe any thing but to their own people; where we have a clear evidence they thought their ceremonies but the inventions of men, as did our bishops in the foresaid article.

I know it's usual with some, both Scots and English, to pretend conscience for their frequenting ceremonial worship when they have nothing els to say. But an erring conscience is the worst guide that ever a man followed, for if he continue to follow it, it will land him in hell. Conscience is no longer to be followed than it follows the word of God; and tho' they pretend conscience, it's nothing but humor, pride, conceit, advantage, or ignorance. They think it an imputation or disgrace to leave off what some time they have professed and practized, and are ashamed to be called turncoats. To turn from the true worship is indeed a great shame and reproach, but to turn from sin and errour is a glorifying of God, without which we cannot have mercie nor salvation. Isa. 55. 7; Ezek. 18. 30, 31.

My Lord, I doubt not but much pains has been taken on you to alienat your young heart from the present establishment in Church and State. The Jacobit's common cant is that K. G. has not right, and the Pretender only has the blood right. But this is fals, for K. G. has a blood right, and all the right the free choice of the nation in Parliament can give, which is the foundation of all hereditary right that kings have; and tho' K. J. 7. had a blood right, yet he justly forfeited it to him selfe by his tyrannie against the laws of God and man, and to all his. When men are justly forfeited, their blood right to their





estates is cut off from them and their heirs, as we see in Saul, and others about us.

My Lord, I cannot beleve its love to prelacie that moves you to set up that separat worship, for ther is no more warrant for arch-bishops, archdeaens, or chancelors as in the Church of England, or for diocesian bishops, than for Pope and Cardinals in all the New Testament. Christ set up a parity amongst his people, ther was not an apostle above an apostle (Mat. 10.), nor one of the seventie (Luke 10.) disciples above the rest, neither these apostles nor these disciples had any above them but Christ. So that the government He set up was in a parity amongst all His ministers. Its true the New Testament mentions bishops, Phil. 1. 1, 1 Tim. 3. 1, but the word in the original, *επισκοπος*, signifies no more but an overseer in the church, as is clear from Act. 20. 17, 28. In v. 17 they are called elders, who in the 28 v. are called in Greek *επισκοπους*, bishops, which is translated even by bishops, overseers. For the bishops in England had an hand in the translation of the New Testament. As to that text, Phil. 1. 1, by bishops cannot be understood diocesian bishops set over many congregations, seing one congregation could contain all the Christians there, for the generalitie wer all pagans, even as here in Scotland in the begining of the Reformation there wer but few protestants, the bulk being papists. And as to 1 Tim. 3. 1, the following verses, which contain the qualifications of a bishop, shew plainly that by bishop is meant every lawfully ordained minister by the presbytrie, 1 Tim. 4. 14, for there is not one qualificationed but agrees to such. Thus every faithfull minister is a New Testament bishop.

My dear Lord, I beseech you be serious about your salvation, and for this end seek grace to beleve—1. That we are all shapen in sin and iniquitie—Ps. 51. 5. 2. That by nature Satan reigns in us, and we are children of wrath—Ephes. 2. 2, 3. 3. That all beleevers have Christ in them, and all unbeleevers who have not received Christ to



reign in them and rule them, have the devil in them—1 Joh. 4. 4. 4. That there is no washing us from sin but by the blood or vertue of the blood of Christ—1 John 1. 7. 5. That there is no obtaining of what His bloodie death hath purchased but by receiving heartily the Lord Jesus to be our God and Saviour, whom only we will serve—John 1. 12. These men received Christ as I have said, for He made them the sons of God (God pardoned them, and was a reconciled Father to them), but He makes not hypocrites His sons. And these are hypocrites who profess they beleve on God and on Christ, but never heartily desired that God by His Spirit should dwell in them, subdue them, deprive them of their sinfull pleasures and profits, and sanctifie and renew them more and more till they be meet for glory. 6. That we must all appear before the tribunal of Christ and be judged according to what we have don, whether it be good or bad—2 Cor. 5. 10. And if we receive not Christ as above said, we canot stand.

My worthy Lord, I am glad of the match ye have made, for ye have got a well accomplished lady; and if she be encouraged by hearkning to her advice, she shall prove by grace a great blessing to you and your family. But I am heartily sorry for the sin and irregularity of your marriage against the law of God and man. The laws of men both in Church and State anent marriag, as well as all other lawful things, are authorized by God—Rom. 13. 1, etc. ; 1 Thess. 5. 12; Hebr. 13. 17. The Lord grant both of you repentance unto life, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ, that that sin, and all your other sins, may be forgiven unto you, and make you as blessed, yea more blessed, than any of your predecessors. I shall make no apologie for the freedom I have used in this letter, but that it flows from love to God's glory, your salvation, your worthy grandmother and mother (who with her dying breath recommended your being bred Prisbyterian), and the interest I had in your father, and the sincere love I have for your selfe and lady, and an earnest desire that the family of the



Weems may yet be a pillar to the Church of Christ in this nation, and a great matter of praise amongst all the true lovers of pure religion, as once it was even since our happie Revolution, and that it may recover the high esteem and honour it had once in the hearts of all the godly ministers and people throwout Scotland. The God of all grace grant this for His Son's sake, and for this end fill you and your worthy Countess with all the fulness of the Holy Ghost and of faith. This is and shall be the prayer of, my Lord,

Your Lordship's sincere friend and very obedient servant in  
the Lord Jesus,

JO. WYLIE.

MY DEAR LORD,—If I had the strength I have had, I would have come and waited on you and your Lady, but my strength is now so impared that these six or eight years I have not made a journey ten miles from this place. Look on what I have written as the words of a disinterested man as to any secular advantage, and of a dying man. Good Lord grant that if I never see you and your lady on earth, I may see you (after the Lord has made you blessings to His church) about the thron in glory. I beseech you beleve that tho' ye could worship God even as He hath appointed both as to the matter and manner of His worship in privat, ye cannot be accepted by Him so long as ye brake the command, Hebr. 10. 25, and the 4th command to keep holy the Sabbath, the greatest sanctification of which that we can show is by frequenting his publick pure worship. And if this we do not when we are able to do it, we regard iniquitie, and God will not hear us. Ps. 66. 18.

My Lord, the greatest honour your family has met with was occasioned by Presbyterian government; for Earle John had the honour to be his Majestie's Commissioner, and represent his person



in an assemblie of the Church of Scotland. His son, David, Earle of Weemes, your great-grandfather, was a member of the commission of the General Assembly when he was Lord Elcho.

232. JAMES, FOURTH EARL OF WEMYSS, to Mr. JAMES LESLIE.

Directions about the mines, etc.

Edinburgh, November 25, 1728.

SIR,—I am sorry to hear by yours that the storm has again done more damage, but I hope by this time its pretty well secured. Now that you are through the mine to the eight foot coall, I would have you sett the east ginn altogether, and sett the coalliers who are working there into it, by which you'll save the expence of two corf fillers and two door keepers. I would give the coalliers no more than 14 sh. for the smeall, and 20 for the land coall, and if they refuse you may threaten that I'll use force, but I reckon they'll take it. The land coall is to be sold at 6 pence or half a mark per load, and all must be kept in a book by itself, so as I may see how it answers. I am to try through all the brewers this day what they will offer for my bear, but I'm affraid I shall gett no more than twelve shillings, because the prices, as the talk is here, are at a stand. Pray order the notes to be sent me punctually, otherwise it's needless for me to revise them. You'll know best yourself how to dispose of the Elcho victuall when you are there, only you'll take good advice about the price of the wheat, because it has not been sold this good time. I believe you had best keep the meall, because the prices are just now very high. Enclos'd have ane order from Sir Tho. Bruce to deliver a grayhound to one of my servants; you'll cause the postilion go up for her, and bring her to me, and tell him to take care he don't lose her. Carnwath is disposing of a deall of things belonging to his fire engine, and if Mr. Row thinks that there





will be anything there of use to my machine, he may come over and take a look of them.

I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

WEMYSS.

Mind the long gun as you go to Elcho.

To Mr. James Leslie, at the Chaple.

233. JAMES, FOURTH EARL OF WEMYSS, to JAMES LESLIE. Salters to be put in the pit. *Circa* 1728.

JAMES,—Baily Malcolm haveing inform'd me that the salters have been so insolent as to deforce William Thomson, the officer, from apprehending Rob. Mitchell, I desire upon this that you'l presently gett the servants with you, and send Rob. Mitchell to Kinghorn prison this night, and putt young Miller, who was the ringleader, into the pitt; the rest I shall take care of when I come home. Send Gilb. Robinson along with Rob. Mitchell on H. Gray's horse.

WEMYSS.

JAMES,—I believe the ship in Largo Bay is a Sweed, load with timber, who used to come here before; so I would have you send one to S. Orme early in the morning, to cause speak to him. I see a wine ship just now comeing up, which I believe may be Grame. You may have a boat ready, for he is holding straight on the house.

W.

To Mr. James Leslie.

234. JANET, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to [ALEXANDER, FIFTH EARL OF LEVEN]. Friendship for the family.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, May 1, 1731.

MY LORD,—Its ane infinet pleasure to me to hear of the increas and prosperity of your Lordships family, nor can anny more sincerly wish

<sup>1</sup> The originals of this and the following Letter are in the Charter-chest of Lady Elizabeth Jane Leslie Melville Cartwright.



the continuance of it, and that your Lordship and my Lady may have all maner of joye and hapiness in this young gentleman, and all the other pretty children you are blest with.

I shou'd be the most worthless ungratefull creature alive if I wer not sensible of my good Lord Levens friendship to me on all occasions which forever to be, and acknowledgs is at present the only return in my weak powre, and I dout not but your Lordship will have goodness enughe to accept off that till fate send me ane oportuinity of showing my regard and esteem for your Lordship and family in some other way, which I'm sure I shou'd imbrace with a grate deal of joye.

For me, my Lord, I've indeed been in a verry bad way in the phisicians hands since ever you left Edinburgh, and brought to so low a pass that I cou'd hardly walk betwixt the bed and the chair. I thank God I now begin to recover, and get some hopes of once seeing Fife again in ten days or a fortnight. It will add too the pleasure of being there not a litle, if I have soon the good fortune of seeing your Lordship at Wemyss. In the meanwhile, and forever, I beg your Lordship will believ me,

My Lord, your Lordship's most obliged cusen and obedient servant,  
 JANET WEMYSS.

Mamma continues much afterone, and retturns your Lordship's compliments. I beg my humble service may be made acceptable to my Lady and my dear litle son.

235. DAVID, LORD ELCHO, to [ALEXANDER, FIFTH EARL OF LEVEN]. Agreement with his father.

Kirkland, April the 2 [*circa* 1740].

MY LORD,—I receiv'd a letter to-day from my brother desiring me to meet him to-morrow at Edinburgh, which has prevented me from



having the honour of paying my respects to your Lordship at Mellvin as I intended. It is in the most grateful manner I reflect upon how much the family, and in particular, I am obliged to your Lordship for having been the author of bringing matters to so happy a conclusion betwixt my Lord Wemyss and me, and if it is ever in my power to show my thankfulness in any other manner than at present, you may always command, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,

ELCHO.

. 236. JAMES, FOURTH EARL OF WEMYSS [to JAMES DONALDSON, factor at Wemyss]. Directions for the collieries, etc.

Norton, February 13th, 1753.

SIR,—I am glad to observe by yours of the 4th, that no unlucky accidents have happend to the works by the late frequent storms; there have been great losses upon the coasts hereabouts, and now we have a great fall of snow.

I knew that the bear was sold to Mr. Trotter, but the price wont be known till the fiars are struck, which is settled sometime next month.

I cannot think there should be any disturbance about settling the price of working the 8-foot coall at Methill; seeing it was allways a born work till the gin was erected at Hopewell, and if the sink now putting down should not be so deep as the last westmost sink was, they ought to give allowance for it. After the coalliers have wrought some time, you may be able to calculate the difference of the charge betwixt the gin or drawn work and born work; but if the 8-foot coall is wrought according to Mr. Birrell plan, which will afford a good quantity of sea coal, it may turn out to advantage.

I wrote you a short line a few posts ago to empower you to sign



the articles of roup of the room of Lochhead in my name; the roup will probably be over before this reaches you, and shall be glad to hear what success you have, but I am not much afraid that it will go at as high a rent as the other is, because I know there were severall to bid for it, among whom was ane acquaintance of Mr. Orroks, who designd to turn it into a grass room; I suppose you 'l write me when the roup is over. The farm meal will supply you for some months, and hereafter I should wish a contract was made with some merchant to supply us with a certain quantity of meal yearly, payable whole or part in coall or salt, but this you may have your thoughts of till I see you; and if you have ane opportunity, you may converse with and gett the offers of some merchants about it.

Since the Bremener consignd to H. Clerk did not arrive about the time appointed, I wonder he did not write to his correspondents acquainting them of it; I am not for lowering the price of salt, but in the utmost necessity of haveing the ginnells all chock full, and that all your neighbours are underselling you, you should write to Mr. Forbes to gett the Messrs. Coutts's in Edinburgh to acquaint the merchants in Embden, etc., immediatly of the quantity of old salt on hand, and what price you can serve them att, and desire their answer; and if you have a mind, you may write to Mr. Edw. Burnell at Margate, in the isle of Thanet, Kent, as from yourself, that you have a great quantity of old salt on hand, which will be sold at  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per bushel. Coalls will go off in the spring. Your boy which you putt prentice to Capt. Pemberton was here t'other day, and says he is very well used; he tells me that Mr. Henderson, in Amsterdam, is dead, which may putt a stop to the quick sale of coalls for some time; but you should immediatly fall upon a method to find out who contracts for the lights, and write to him directly, offering, in my name, to serve him as readily as any body, and endeavour to gett some Scotch merchant, likewise in Holland, to speak to him. Enclosed you have a small note





of some spiceries I want, which you may send to Holland with the first opportunity, to the merchant you write to, and desire him to buy them, and send with the first ship which comes, and you 'l allow the price out of the loading. . . .

You have not mentioned the extent of your remittances this year, and now I suppose your books are shutt. My compliments to your wife; and I am, etc.

WEMYSS.

237. JAMES, FOURTH EARL OF WEMYSS, to JAMES DONALDSON.

About the collieries.

Norton, January 9th, 1756.

SIR,—Mrs. Jackson is just now with me again about the brasses, wanting to see if I would allow her to gather what are upon the hills, if she could gett none from the bottom of the pitts. She says she has agreed with Duke Hamilton, Lord Elfingston, and severall others, and would not ask any thing that could be of præjudice to her. I told her your answer to me was, that I could not serve from the bottom of the pitts, even tho' I had, the price of the great coall being about seven shill. per tun. I am now again press't to write this to you about it; therefore, when they deliver this, you may, I think, agree with them, if you can, for what they may gather upon the hills at least, and see if possibly they could gett any from the bottom of the pitts, for I believe they will give any price rather than want it.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

WEMYSS.

I don't desire you would do any thing inconvenient, tho' it may be of some advantage if you gett a good price.

To Mr. James Donaldson, at Wemyss.



238. The Hon. FRANCIS CHARTERIS to DAVID, SIXTH EARL OF LEVEN. Death of his father, James, fourth Earl of Wemyss.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, March the 23d, 1756.

MY LORD,—This is to inform your Lordship that this morning I receiv'd the melancholly accounts of my father my Lord Wemyss's death. He died on Sunday last, after a few days' illness.—I am, my Lorde, your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,

FRA. CHARTERIS.

For the right honorable the Earl of Leven, att Melvin, Fife, (redirected) Edinburgh.

239. DAVID, LORD ELCHO, to the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss. Advising him to marry.

August the 6, 1756.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—God be praised your affair with the Exchequer is happily ended. I take it very kind in my good friend Onethank to have given me such good news. Pray thank him kindly from me for his letter, which I received this day. Now, my dear, I must renew my requests to you, which is to quite the sea service intirely, and establish yourself at the old castle, and marry immediately. As for a jointure, the law will give your wife one undoubte[d]ly; and it will be hard if we can't take care of your younger children amongst us; besides, you may gett a wife who has some money. It is true it is a very lucky circumstance Lady K—y's being with child; but, then, it may be a daughter; it may not live: in short, our family is not strong enough for you not to marry. If our friend had three or four sons, indeed, their would be no occasion for your marrying at least so soon, for his

<sup>1</sup> Original Letter in Leven and Melville Charter-chest. The Earl of Wemyss died at a letter from the Earl to James Donaldson, dated Norton on the 21st of March 1756. [Noted on Norton, January 9, 1756.]



children having the estate, or yours, to me is quite the same ; but for Godsake lett us all unite to prevent the estate from ever going out of our family into another, which is so infinitely worse ; and I assure you this advice which I now give you I will stand to all my life, and approve off at all times, and on all events. As for your being all your life a true friend to the Court, I have no doubt off ; but pray endeavour to gett them to do something for you in another way than in the sea way. Their are employments ; you may gett a red ribbon, or be made an Irish Peer, by your own name, all which things would be a great credit to us all. I have at last gott a colonel of foot's comision, and the king has also been pleased to confirm me an Earl, so I look upon myself as good a one as any, and am now so undisputably all over Europe. I sett out the tenth of next month for the south, to see and gett our female friend to signe the paper, but I am affraid I shan't succeed. Be in no apprehensions ever about me. I shall always, I hope in God, do my duty as an officer, but not one step will ever I stir as a voluntier. Adieu, my dear friend ; may all the blessings of life attend you and our dearest friends in the east country, to whom I beg my love ; and be assured that I shall be all my life a stanch well wisher to both your familys. In case of accidents happening to me in this war, my small affairs in this country are all arranged.

Indorsed : 6th August 1756, Mr. David Davison.

240. THE SAME to THE SAME. Proposal to commute his yearly revenue.

Switzerland, August the 10, 1759.

MY D. B.,—This cruel behaviour of my Ladies gives me great uneasiness. You must be sensible that, join'd to many other circumstances that has happen'd to me in life, it is no wonder, I may venture to say to you, that my situation is such, and so precarious, that one's mind



can't be at ease. I have made a proposal to Mr. C. which, if he approves off, I hope, if your circumstances will permitt, your heart is good enough to concur. It is to accomodate matters with my Lady as you please, if you could give me five thousand lewis d'ors, once paid in place of the yearly revenue you have agreed to give me; I never will ask a farthing more from you or yours all my life. That, with five from Mr. C., will putt me in a way of pushing myself abroad, so as some time or other to be usefull to my family, which otherwise it is not in my power to do. If I had had that sum three years ago, to have bought an estate in Sweden I was offer'd by a Swedish Ambassador, to be received Count in the diet, colonel in the army, a place at Court, and knight of the order. Sure, my proposal is not unreasonable. I am 38 years old, and if I live 30 years more, you will pay me triple that sum. Confer with Mr. C. about this, and think of contributing to make an unfortunatè B. happy and easy for the rest of his life. My love to L. B. And I am, my D. B., yours most affectionatly.

To the honourable James Wemyss of Wemyss, Esq., at Wemyss,  
Fifeshire, North Britain.

241. Captain RICHARD KEMPENFELT to [the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS  
of Wemyss]. The French and English forces in India.

Majesty's Ship Grafton, cruizing off Pondicherry,  
August 14, 1759.

DEAR SIR,—I received a letter from you, dated from Edinburgh. It gave me great pleasure to hear from one whom I have so great an esteem for as yourself, and 'tis with no less that I congratulate you upon your marriage, in which our old friend the admiral joins. But I am sorry you are not concern'd in the laurel harvest, one who knows so well how to gather them. The navy should not have neglected you, nor you it. What powerfull charm fetter'd your ardour? Possesst





of every quality to shine conspicuous, why would you shade yourself in peace, when your country, when all Europe is as in a blaze of arms? One half of my acquaintance might have done the same, and I should have taken no notice of it; it would not have been necessary; but your retirement is a real loss to the navy. Perhaps I am to free, but you must remember that we have been messmates. I shant neglect your recommendation of Daniel Bain.

The French land forces upon the Cormandel coast, under command of General Laly, have hitherto been superior to us, but last December they avail'd themselves of the absence of the squadron to besiege Madrass, which, after 42 days open batterys against it, they were obliged to raise, which has level'd their power, having drain'd them of men, money, and ammunition. The face of affairs here have changed very much in our favour since last year. We reign superiour at Bengal, we keep at least an equal ballance upon the Cormandel coast; and as to the other side of the Peninsula of India, our Bombay forces are in possession of the Citadel of Suratt. The French fleet, indeed, are superiour to us in number of guns, but I beleive some of their ships are very bad, short of compliment, and in want of provisions and other necessaries. We have been expecting them here every day these three months, but no intelligence of them yet.

Pray my most respectfull compliments to your Lady, and believe me to be, dear Sir, with great truth and affection, your most obedient and most humble servant,

RD. KEMPENFELT.<sup>1</sup>

242. Colonel JOHN SCOTT to WILLIAM, SEVENTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND. About the election.

Port Street, 27 November 1762.

DEAR EARL,—As I hear poor Sinclair has either walk'd off or is very near it, I have wrote to Jamie Wemys in the terms inclosed. I hope

<sup>1</sup> Admiral Kempenfelt was afterwards drowned in the foundering of the Royal George in Portsmouth Harbour in 1782. [*Vide* No. 283, *infra*.]



he wont be lazy but undertake the thing, and I imagine he can't fail of success, altho' they say he misbehaves by steeking out the lairds. I remember with gratitude that you took your part for me without consulting any of the great men, and therefore I have done the same on this occasion. I hope the ministry will take no part against us, but if they do, it certainly will have no influence on me, for I am a bougre déterminé. I was in hopes of seeing your maigre phiz in town this winter, and was sorry to hear you had determin'd to bury yourself and Pussy in the Highlands all winter. We shall have a fine riot in Parliament this winter, but I don't believe the opposition will be able to muster above 120 or 130, altho' Billy Com—d, Lucky Newcastle, the Nurse, and Pitt, have all join'd. I beg you to offer my respectful compliments to the Countess; and believe me always, dear Earl, your most faithful and obedient servant,

JOHN SCOTT.

Indorsed: Colonel Scott to Lord Sutherland.

243. [Colonel JOHN SCOTT, signing "PAWKEY," to the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss.] Advising him to become a candidate for election to Parliament. *Circa* 1762.

DEAR SIR,—As I hear that the general is either dead or so near it that it is impossible he can be alive when this comes to hand, I trouble you with this epistle, to suggest your standing candidate for the county, in which case you may depend upon me and old Pawkey giving you all the assistance in our power. I shall be ready to give personal attendance if you find it necessary to call upon me, and wherever I can be of service to you, either by word or writ, you may freely command me. I owe this to your brother the Earl if I had never seen your black face. As I have rather a liking for yourself, and no dislike to Pussy, I pay the debt with the greater pleasure. I dont deal in long epistles, but I think I have said the needful. If on



your part you decline the thing, which I hope wont be the case (for I wish very sincerely you may be the man), let me know it as soon as possible, that I may take my part in case Rothes, Oswald, and Co. shou'd apply. My best compliments to Lady Betty, and I am, etc.

PAWKEY.

244. Sir ROBERT DOUGLAS, Baronet, author of *Peerage of Scotland*, to THE SAME. Account of the Wemyss family.

Edinburgh, 25 June 1763.

SIR,—You are now the head of the house of Wemyss, and the account of that family goes to the press on Monday next. As the copper-plates are now engraving, I thought it my duty to take your advice in relation to the coat of arms. The family of Wemyss for many ages carried only the simple coat of M<sup>c</sup>Duff, Earl of Fife. For some generations afterwards they quarter'd the arms of Glen and some others with their own, which I think added neither lusture nor honour to the family. Your worthy father, I am told, laid all these asside, and carried only the simple coat of M<sup>c</sup>Duff; and indeed it is my opinion you ought to carry no other, as you are the only family in Scotland that can instruct their descent from that noble stock. I therefor incline to give you the simple arms of the antient Earls of Fife, with the crest, supporters, and motto carried by the Earls of Wemyss, but I want your approbation and concurrence; for tho' the title is forfeited, it makes no alteration as to the coats of arms in my work, because I engrave the arms of all the Peers that stood on the Rolls at the Union Parliament. The account of the family of Wemyss to be published, is greatly alter'd for the better since you saw it, and as I have spared no pains to get it rightly and properly documented, I hope it will give satisfaction to the family. The whole Peerage will be printed off in 3 or 4 weeks at most, and I shall be proud to have Mr. Wemyss amongst



my list of subscribers. I have the honour to be, with sincere esteem,  
 Sir, your most obedient humble servant, Ro<sup>r</sup>. DOUGLAS.

*P.S.*—I beg to hear from you soon, directed to me to the care of  
 Mr. Fleming, printer in Edinburgh.

To the honourable James Wemyss of Wemyss, Esquire, at  
 Wemyss House, in Fife.

245. WILLIAM, SEVENTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to the Hon.  
 JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss. Of the election.

Dunrobin, September 5th, 1765.

DEAR JAMIE,—Your very short letter with Colonel Scot's I receiv'd. Perhaps you have taken your laconick style from me, but if I had been writing to you on a matter of this kind, I wou'd have been more explicit. You are most certainly right that Colonel Scott's abdication puts that emberas out of my way (I mean himself). But I never thought myself bound to him, as whatever favours passed, were due to me. You know my situation with the Mackays. Suppose ministry may bring in a man more powerfull than Scott, where am I? I think in a worse situation than at present. He knows I have promised Colonel Mackay Dornoch next election. Lett me know his *man*, perhaps I shou'd have no objection; till then, as I dont find he has *made any promise to you*, I must desire to be excused. If there is any merit in a borough, why may not I have it? and why shou'd he? These are the ideas that strike me, but betwixt ourselves I shall write him this post, but am resolved to make no positive promise, but hope next post will put me out of all doubt, as you will have had time to explain yourself, and for that reason am most impatient for the post.





Jack is a very good man, but has much the heels of us both, so take care. My wife joins me in our love to you all.—I ever am, dear Jamie,

Your most affectionate brother and servant,

SUTHERLAND.

*P.S.*—I shou'd like to be well with Colonel Scott, as I think him a sensible man, but am resolved to do nothing to hurt myself, as I am fully convinced, if he was in my situation, he wou'd be as faultless in that matter as anybody. More perhaps to-morrow before the post goes.

Copy Letter.

DEAR COLONEL,—I had the favour of your letter mentioning your plan about the Fife boroughs. I could have wished you had been more particular, as its impossible for me to give [an]y promise till I know the person, for many reasons. It is my wish at all times to joine the king's measures, and I flatter myself you have no doubt that I shou'd always be happy of shewing you any little service in my power; but I have laid down a resolution of not engaging rashly, for when I do engage, I am resolved to fullfill it. I shall be glad to know when you have fixed about these boroughs, and I am, dear Colonel.

Now, my dear brother, give me your opinion of this in course of post. Adieu.

246. The Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss to DAVID, LORD ELCHO, his brother. Regarding the allowances to Lord Elcho. 20th April 1766.

DEAR B.,—I own I never was more surprised with anything than with the contents of your last letter; how different from the preceeding one and severall others which I must take liberty to remind you of in this. You seem to think I have neglected corresponding with you. In my situation it is dangerous, and to be plain, some of your letters have



been in such a strain that they were not easily to be answer'd. You mention in your last the bargain, as you say I may please to call it. I beg you will remember the terms were always proposed by you and never objected to by me. Honour and conscience are words that I am not fond of using, but mine have never been disputed by any man but yourself, and after I have given you my detail of what has passed betwixt us, I will leave yourself to determine of them.

You received from this in the year	1756,	.	.	500
Do.	1757,	.	.	750
Do.	1758,	.	.	750
Do.	1759,	.	.	500
Do.	1760,	.	.	575
Do.	1761,	.	.	1650
Do.	1762,	.	.	719
Do.	1763,	.	.	100
Do.	1764,	.	.	2112
Do.	1765,	.	.	2100

You say 250 was stop'd from you in the year 1759 upon a frivolous pretence and never accounted for to you. The pretence was L. W. had warned me at my peril not to pay any more but to herself, and given orders to commence a process against me. That year you proposed the bargain which was concluded, and next year the 250 was paid you, with 125, half year of your annuity before the agreement, and the interest of the money untill paid agreed for being 200, which makes the sum 575. Next year part of your money was remitted you, and continued to be so as soon as opportunity offered, untill all was paid up last year, and you seemed well pleased. I beg you will remember that before any agreement was made, that in August 1759 you proposed by letter to me that my B. C. and I shou'd give you each 5000, which I consented to; but Mr. C. insisted the annuities shou'd be valued, which they were, and you had the full amount for which they might



have been bought on the Change of London or Amsterdam. My share came to £6000, C. to 4000 ; by this you see I gave 1000 more than you expected from me. At that time it was agreed 2000 should remain in my hands during L. W. life, but this you soon broke thro', and we consented to it. The reasons for this 2000 remaining in my hand were very strong. I had bought L. W. jointure, which you had no right you say to sell, and she was at that time attempting every thing in her power to take from you and oblige me to pay to her, which she undoubtedly would have effected had it not been the grant I got of it, tho' she wou'd not have benefitt by it, as it [wou'd] have gone to the Government. Had it not been to make you easy and happy, I had never run that risk, for it was visible ruin to the family, and this risk was never thought of when the annuities were valued, or it would have lessen'd the amount of mine. But your discontent seems to proceed from what you impute as a fault of mine, that I enjoy this estate. You scarce know how little I have enjoyed of it ; it was but 1400 per annum, out of which the interest of 10,000 debt and the annuities 750, there remained just 150 of it to me, together with the coal and salt, which was estimate at about 600, but this was in such a decline that had I not laid out a great deal on it it must have sunk. It has cost me full 5000, which is as much as it wou'd have sold for, therefore I reckon I have dearly bought it, and have had very little for my trouble, if I had been only tutor upon the estate ; but it was settled upon me by entail, and out of my power to bestow it, and had that not been the case, my contract of marriage had done it, when I was obliged to shew a state of my affairs, and since that time I had no right to give sums of money out of the estate, but considering your situation and what you always protested your attachment to the family, I persuaded my wife's friends to agree to it. I think you may perceive I am in no situation to grant any more from this estate at present, and when you consider that there are three young men coming up who are already an



expençe, and which will encrease daily, there are little appearance of it for the future. I must observe to you that in the foregoing state of remittances, I cannot be mistaken, as I have been at the pains to take them from my accounts and your trustees discharges; and to make it more clear to you that you have had all you ever demanded of me, so far from ever stopping anything from you, I will state it in another view, as if paid in due time, then by summing up the last seven years you will find how unjust your suspicions have been, and that there is no deficiency.

We will suppose that you had been paid in the year 1759,	750
1760, being the year you disposed to me,	2000
Do. Interest of 4000 untill paid,	200
1761, . . . . .	200
1762, . . . . .	200
1763, . . . . .	200
1764, . . . . .	2000
Do. Interest of 2000 untill paid,	100
1765, Principall and interest,	2100

After giving you this state, I must say that I am vexed to see you want a pretence of quarrell, and am sorry to think that I know there are those who will not be wanting to furnish you with materials. Now, I have to let you know what is to be dreaded in the situation this family is in, and which is not impossible; in the first place, in the event of your death before L. W., she is entitlled to her jointure, and were I to die likewise, then there wou'd be two jointures of 500 each, and the interest of 10,000 debt upon an estate of 1400 a year. I have now to conclude with extracts from your own letters. The first is of August 1756.

“I must renew my request to you, which is to quit the sea service intirely, and establish yourself at the old castle, and marry immediately. As for a jointure, the law will give your wife one undoubtedly; and it will be hard if we can't take care of your younger children amongst us.





Our Br's family, etc., is not strong enough for you not to marry, otherwise his children or yours getting the estate is quite the same to me; but for Godsake let us all unite to prevent it from ever going out of our family into another so infinitely worse; and I assure you this advice which I now give you, I will stand to all my life, and approve of at all times and on all events." Concludes with, "Adieu, my dear friend; may all the blessings of life attend you and our dearest friends in the east country, to whom I beg my love; and be assured I shall be all my life a stanch well wisher to both your families. In case of accidents happening to me in this war, all my small affairs in this country are arranged."

August 1759.

"MY DEAR B.,—This cruel behaviour of my ladies gives me great uneasiness. You must be sensible that, joined to many other circumstances that has happened to me in life, I may venture to say to you that my situation is so precarious that one's mind can't be at ease. I have made a proposal to Mr. C., which, if he approves off, I hope, if your circumstances will permitt, your heart is good enough to concur. It is to accomodate matters with my lady as you please. If you could give me five thousand lowis d'ors, once paid in place of the yearly revenew you have agreed to give me, I will never ask a farthing more from you or yours all my life. That, with 5000 from Mr. C., will putt me in a way of pushing myself abroad, so as sometime or other to be usefull to my family. . . . Confer with Mr. C. about this, and think of contributing to make an unfortunate Br<sup>r</sup> happy and easy for the rest of his life."

December 1764.

"I should be much obliged to you if you would pay me the 2000 remaining of our agreement. I give you my WORD OF HONOUR, I have no farther claim upon you, and shall trouble you no more afterwards with any demands."



May 1765.

“DEAR SIR,—I received yours. Your manner of expressing yourself is polite and civil. Whenever you pay me, all matters of money are over betwixt us, and I make no doubt of our living well after. There was a dryness betwixt me and Mr. C. before our meeting here. Thank God it is all over, and there is no man I have a greater regard for. I hope it will be just the same betwixt us, and that you will find me always a friend to you and yours. May friendship and unanimity always subsist betwixt Mr. Charters, you, and I, is the sincere wish of, etc.”

Your last I need not recapitulate, it is too recent for you to have forgot. It and one or two former ones I thought not fitt to put you in mind off. After what I have said, it is strange you should endeavour to disturb my peace of mind. God knows, in point of fortune I have very little enjoyment. My wife, to the surprise of every body, has been but one winter in Edinburgh since her marriage, and I have never yet been master of enough to build stables, tho' those we have were thought not sufficient to stand 5 year when I came here. My situation obliges me to go south yearly, but there is not a single gentleman there at less expense. I am quite indifferent about myself, but the family I wou'd and will do everything I can to support. My health has been extremely bad last winter, for which I was order'd our spa, but the death of the person who manages everything here, and not having got a successor to him, has prevent'd it, as I am oblig'd to do everything myself, and my health very little able to bear it. I have been the more explicit in this letter as I told you before, because it is dangerous to correspond, and I hope what I have said will give you satisfaction, a proof that I have ever meant it, is that to pay you I have borrowed money. I most sincerely wish you happiness, and remain your affectionate humble servant.

Indorsed: Letter to E., 20 April 1766, in answer to one of the 2d do.



247. WILLIAM, EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to the Hon. JAMES  
WEMYSS of Wemyss. Life at Bath.

Bath, 22d April [1766].

DEAR JAMES,—I now give up all thoughts of seeing you att Bath, which I own is a disapointment to us, but we must be satisfied with our fate.

I drink most regularly the waters. I am very well, and no signs of gout whatever. We shall continue here some weeks, and then go to London. You have all the news, I make no doubt, better than I have here. Sir Lawrence and Masterton are here. Long goes for Scotland soon, and I make no doubt will see you in his way to Clackmanan to gett health for next winter. My sister mentions in her letter that my aunts were more composed than formerly. I don't find it. They propose a submission which I had the offer of att the beginning, and wou'd not accept of. Shou'd I give up one thousand when I shou'd have two, besides the shamefull way the last settlement was made. I hate lawsuits, particularly with my relations, but shall continue in this unless my friends convince me to the contrary. I don't think we have much good company here att present, and one week shews the amusements of the next. I beleive their's plenty of thieves, but I don't play to lose any summ. I have given up that, with many other folls,—att least I hope so. L<sup>d</sup> Cassilss, Hopton, and many Scotch are here, nott forgetting Frank Napier, who begs to be remember'd to you. My love to Bess, etc., and I am, dear James,

Your most obedient and affectionate,

SUTHERLAND.



248. MARY MAXWELL, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to THE SAME.  
Lord Sutherland ill with fever.

Bath, May 10th, Saturday [1766].

DEAR MR. WEMYSS,—My Lord continues to have more favourable symptoms in his disease, but his fever has not had a crisis, so the event must be very uncertain. I this day begin to indulge a little hope, but this with caution. Lord Hopetoun, who, with his family, have shewn great friendship to me, would inform you of the great danger my Lord has been in, and I hope you will not be surprised at my not writing you, when I tell you that these sixteen nights past I have not had my cloaths off, and have never been able to leave his bedside. He has had a dreadful fever, and I'm afraid his delicate constitution will not stand, tho' the worst symptom begin to leave him. Dr. Sutherland was to write you, but I have great reason to think he would not tell you the worst of it, as he has from the beginning endeavour'd to deceive himself and others. You may believe I have had the best physicians in Bath, and sent to London for Fordyce, who could not stay long with us. I write to you, as I'm afraid poor Lady Betty will be much hurt, and perhaps surprised to learn the way her brother is in. He is quite sensible at present; for some days he was quite delirious. He just now gets the bark in great quantities, which is a proof that they think the fever abated.<sup>1</sup> I write by fire light, so hope you will be able to read this from your affectionate humble servant,

M. SUTH<sup>r</sup>.

249. JOHN, THIRD EARL OF BUTE, to [THE SAME]. That he had no political influence.

Tuesday [Indorsed 17 June 1766].

SIR,—It is with the deepest affliction I read your letter. I have lost a worthy noble friend, and the country an excellent honest citizen. I

<sup>1</sup> The Earl of Sutherland died in the month of June following.





most heartily condole with you on this melancholy occasion, and shudder at thinking of the dreadful scene my lady and you have gone thro'. Were my power equal to my good wishes towards you, sir, you certainly would meet with every assistance I could give, but you seem totally to mistake my situation. I have not been at Court these 9 months, nor seen H. M. for this year past, nor know 'I when I shall. Ignorant to the last degree of what is going forward, the papers are my only intelligence, and from them I daily learn some hostility or other, against those I wish well too. Judge, then, my dear Sir, if in this state of ignorance, Scotland without a minister, and yet in hands most adverse to me,—judge if I can be of use to any man living, no not even with advice. Think not I am eluding your request. My nature runs not to these little subterfuges. I explain to you openly the truth of my situation, most heartily sympathising with you in your too just affliction, and shall at any time repeat the substance of this letter when you take the trouble of calling.—I am, Sir, with great regard and sincerity,

Your obedient humble servant,

BUTE.

250. GEORGE, SIXTH EARL OF NORTHESK, to THE SAME. Marriage of the Honourable James Hope and Lady Elizabeth Carnegie.

Hopetoun House, August 18, 1766.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Mr. James Hope, Lord Hopetoun's second son, has done my daughter Bess the honor to make his addresses to her, and all fixed, the marriage to be here privately Thursday evening next, and to see friends the 3 following days, then Lord Hopetoun's family and Bess goes for Moffat for some weeks. Mr. Hope is a most agreeable, pritty young man of a fine character. This alliance, I know, will give you and Lady Betty



Wemyss pleasure. We joyn in most affectionate compliments to you, Lady Betty, and young family. Believe me, with sincere regard and esteem,

Dear Sir, your most affectionate cousin and obedient servant,  
NORTHBESK.

To the Honorable James Wemyss, Esquire, M.P., at Wemyss.

251. DAVID REID, London, to THE SAME. Imprisonment  
of Wilkes.

London, 28 April 1768.

MY DEAR SIR,—I had the honour of yours last night informing me of your being returned for the county of Sutherland. Believe me, I sincerely wish you joy, tho' I should abeen much better pleased to have heard for the ancient kingdom of Fife; but as few honest men can guard against un chevalier d'industrie, I will say no further on the subject, but live in hopes to see it return again into your hands with a double luster.

This town has been in a state of confusion for sometime, and when it will be otherwise, God knows. The mobility has got a malady which they call liberty, else licentiousness, which, if not taken soon in hand by some able doctors, it will certainly grow too stubborn for any modern physick. Indeed, yesterday the Court of King's Bench appeared like so many old Romane Senators, for they committed the author of No. 45 to the King's Bench Prison, where, I can assure you, he is at the present. A true relation of the whole you must not expect from any one in my situation, since they cannot give it without finding fault with some of their betters. I pray do you come up to the first meeting of your House to give your vote for the Speaker; if you do, let me know, and I will not leave the town till I see you. By this time I presume you are all settled at the house of Wemyss. To Lady



Betty and the young gentlemen I beg my most respectful compliments, and if I can be of any service here command me freely. Here is a talke that there will soon be some changes in the Ministry, but I really can see no room to believe it, tho' I am certain they are not all of one way of thinking. When you have a little leasure upon your hands I beg the favour you will inquire after my brother's wife, and if you find her in any distress I pray relieve her, and I will repay you. If Sir James Wemyss or Colonel Sinclare comes in your way I beg my best compliments to them; indeed, I was in hopes they would have returned by the way of London to Scotland. I shall trouble you no more at the present than to assure you I am at all times, my dear Sir,

Your most obedient and most faithful servant,

DAVID REID.

252. ROBERT, FIRST LORD CLIVE, to THE SAME. Travelling  
for health.

Pesenass, 14th May 1768.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of a very old date did not reach me till very lately, owing, I imagine, to the wandring life I am obliged to lead in search of health. You may be assur'd it gave me a very particular pleasure to know for certain that you were in the land of the living, and I shall heartily rejoice at an opportunity of renewing our former acquaintance.

With regard to our old friend Lieut. Cow, I request you will acknowledge my receipt of his letter, and assure him at the same time that if I have any interest with the court of Directors, his son shall be sent out either to Madrass or Bengal, agreeable to his wishes.

My constitution is so much improved that I hope to be able to spend the next winter in England, when I shall be glad of the occasion



of assuring you in person with how much cordiality and regard I am,  
 dear Sir, your most oblig'd and sincere humble servant,

CLIVE.

To the Honorable James Wemyss.

253. JOHN HAMILTON of Bargeny to THE SAME. Marriage with  
 Miss Montgomery.

Bargeny, 1st July 1769.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—I wish'd much to have come over the water when I was at Edinburgh attending the General Assembly, but my stay in East Lothian prevented me, and in my way home to Bargeny I made a visit of some days att Mr. Montgomery's at Colfield, where I made an offer of marriage to his daughter, which was accepted off, and will soon happen. She is well educated, and of a good family. I am not so old as her father or mother by a few years, and she about twenty-one. My affection to you and yours shall ever be fix'd. I have had many proofs of your liking to me, and I cannot help communicating any scheme of mine to you of such consequence as this. But I shall not give any reasons for this, as most people get into adventures of this nature without thinking on reasons. My most kind compliments to Lady Betty and all the young family, and believe me ever most affectionately yours,

JOHN HAMILTON.

To the Honorable James Wemyss, Esquire, att Wemyss, Fife.

254. THOMAS, EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, to THE SAME.  
 Accident at the North Ferry.

Broom Hall, March 23d, 1770.

DEAR SIR,—When yours of the 10th came to Broom Hall I was at Coupar, examining my estate in that neighbourhood. Lady Elgin sent it to me by express, and I got it on Sunday evening. I came





home on Monday, and left this on Tuesday, to go to Edinburgh to consult with such of the Countess of Sutherland's friends as should be there; but on my road, nigh the North Ferry, my horse took fright at a mule, threw me, and broke two of my ribs. When I got back again I immediately wrote the Duke of Athol by express, and Lady Elgin wrote Lady Glenorchy, to beg them both to go up to London. I likewise wrote Lord Denbigh, and this day write Lord Bruce, who's assistance alone I can have any expectations from, and to whom I wrote last year. Were I in London, there is not another person I could speak to on the subject. Lady Glenorchy writes that she cannot go up, but that she has got Lord Cambden applyed to, and she says that the Law Lords are the only people that can be of use. This will make the Duke of Athol's presence the more requisite; I wish he may go. Lady Glenorchy says that a delay is expected, and that we shall know on Monday. I think this should be pushed. I had wrote you sooner, but til last night thought none of my bones had been broken, and that I should have been in Edinburgh either this day or to-morrow. I'm now at a loss to say when I shall be able, only I beg you'll be so good as write me everything that occurs in this affair, as I'm extremely anxious for success.

Lady Elgin joins me in best compliments to you. I ever am, with the greatest regard, dear Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

ELGIN, etc.

255. JANET CHARTERIS, COUNTESS OF WEMYSS, to the Honourable JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss, her son. Condolence on the death of his eldest son.

Taplow, December 7th, 1770.

MR. WEMYSS,—I'm extremely sorry to hear off the heavy missfortune you have sustain'd [in] loosing your eldest son. I hope it will be made



up in the children God Almighty has been so good as preserv to you, and that they will be more dutifull to you than you well know mine has been to me. You indeed have behaved the best off all mine ; and I assure you the one I have the greatest regard for. I shall always interest myself in your wellfare and prospierity, and most sincerely wish all manner hapiness to you, Lady Betty and family. I have took mour[n]ings suitable to the loss off the aparent heir off the family, which I shall ever have the highest regard for.—I am, Sir, .

. Your messfortuneat mother,

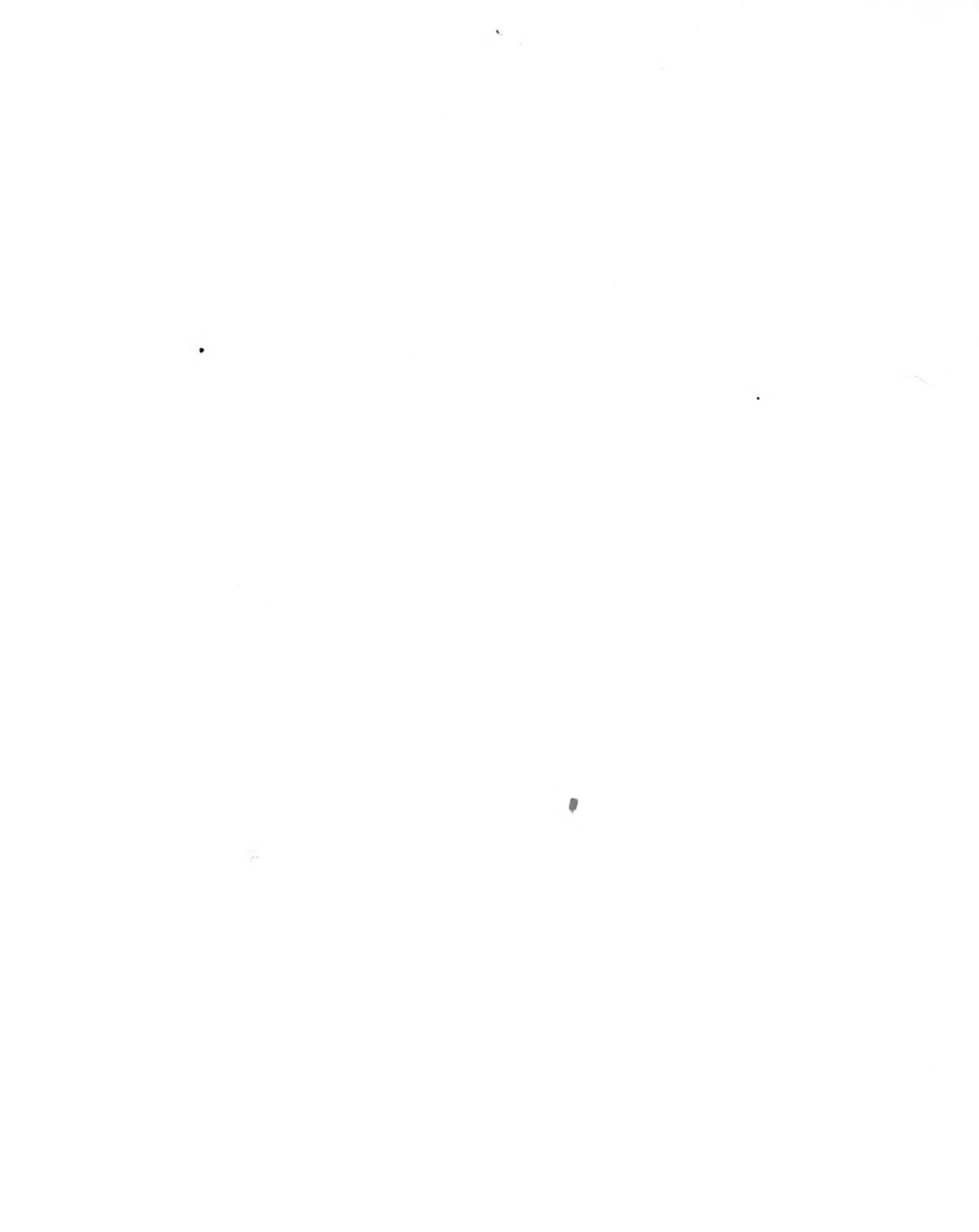
J.A. WEMYSS.

Letters about the Sutherland Peerage Case addressed to the Honourable JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss, M.P., husband of Lady Elizabeth Sutherland, who was aunt of Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, the successful claimant of the Peerage, 1766-1771.

256. (1.) From CAPTAIN JAMES SUTHERLAND of the 38th Regiment of Foot. Candidature of Colonel Scott—Sir Robert Gordon.

Dunrobin, 2d September 1766.

DEAR SIR,—I wrote to you on Saturday last, and I hope the stile of my letter is as moderate as you wish it. In the name of wonder what does the Privy Seal mean ? does he think people are fools ? or that the unfortunate situation of this family condemns it to serve his ? or the purposes of his syfocants ? God forbid ! The year 1715 and forty-five are still fresh in the memory of the people of this country, and the songs made on those occassions are handed down from father to son with as much care, if not more, then the poems of Fingal ; and if you was to propose the son of a family who has been playing a game at cut



throats with us for ages past, the people here would think you meant to sell the liberty of your country as well as the interest of this family. Acts of Parliament can take away our dress, etc., but the affections of the people to this family are not easily removed, except an Act is made to make it treason for singing the loyal songs in praise of the victor's the family of Sutherland have gain'd over the rebels. If such an Act was proposed, I make no doubt but the gratitude of Colonel Scot to this family would make him second the motion. I hope you will dispute every inch of ground with that gratefull gentleman. He may live to repent the opposition he gives you. I can assure you it will not strengthen his interest in this part of the world, and sorry am I that Lady Jannet and he has come to a compromise. You are sure of your seat in Parliament, and I have no idea that the great people will go out of their way to offend a man who is independant of them; therefor, in your situation, you have reason to expect support, and I make no doubt but you will get it if it is necessary, and you will drive Colonel Scot out of the field. . . .

It is two days since I return'd from the Highlands, and notwithstanding my fatigue, I have ever since been wandering in the charter-room. Sandy Mackenzie returns here in ten days from Caithness. My best wishes to Lady Betty; tell her my mind is very much at ease since yesterday. I found her grandmother's contract of marriage, and Earl John Roy has settled matters so, that was our worthy friend so unnatural as to hurt his children or sister, it was not in his power. There is one thing in that deed, that Earl John conveys the honours with the estate to the heirs-femal, and if the husband of the Countess do not take the name of Sutherland and arms of the family, the estate goes to the next in succession. This, I apprehend, will prove a fatal battery to the Pretender. I am only afraid that Sir Robert will not try it, but leave it doubtful, and watch for what may be lookt on as a more favourable opportunity. . . .



My best wishes to you, Lady Betty, and the lads, and I am, with the greatest esteem, dear Sir, your most obliged and affectionate humble servant,

JAMES SUTHERLAND.

257. (2.) From THE SAME. Papers in the charter-room.

Dunrobin, 13th September 1766.

DEAR SIR,—Sandy Mackenzie has finish'd the charter-room, and I flatter myself that his searches will prove very usefull, as we have found papers far beyond our expectations. Lord Afflect [Auchinleck] wanted much that his son should be employed in looking over the family papers. I have a very good opinion of the abilitys of both the father and son, but I sincerely wish that neither of them nor the Justice Clarke knew as little of the charters as possible, and I this day have given my mind freely to Delven on this subject. If Lord Hales or Sir Adam Ferguson could be preveal'd upon to pass their opinions on the papers we have colected, I should be very happy; therefor I think it is of great consequence to this family to interest any of those two gentlemen, and I think it is very necessary that you should take a trip to Edinburgh to see Delven, but take no notice of my having hinted this to you. I have mention'd to Delven that Sandy Mackenzie or I will bring the papers with us, or if it is necessary they will be sent by an express. Sir Robert has wrote to many people in the North beging to have all the inteligence they can give him about Adam Gordon, Earl of Sutherland, having granted any rights to them, and he complains of the tutors of the Countess puting him to all this trouble.

I offer my best wishes to Lady Betty and the lads, and I am, with the greatest esteem, dear Sir, your most obliged and affectionate humble servant,

JAMES SUTHERLAND.





258. (3.) From THE SAME. Sir Robert Gordon's claim.

Edinburgh, 16 November 1766.

DEAR SIR,—Sir Robert's agent has wrote a letter to Mr. Mackenzie at the desire of his council, demanding a review of our papers. Sandy Mackenzie has been this morning with our council; they are to meet to-morrow evening at Mr. Burnet's, and than to determin whither they will comply with this request. I can perceive by the tenor of Sir Robert's agent's letter to Mr. Mackenzie that they want to get the cry against us. I saw Sir Adam Ferguson, who thinks the enemy is not intitled to see any of our papers. Macqueen is engaged for Sir Robert, so we have retain'd Mr. Burnet and Mr. Weight, who are both very cliver men. I am inform'd that Lord Afflect has made out a short memorial of similar cases to this of the infant Countess, which will be of great service to us. The council for the infant are Sir Adam Ferguson, Messrs. Burnet, Weight, Boswel, Crosbie, William Mackenzie, and Alexander Gordon. My best wishes to Lady Betty and the lads, and I am, dear Sir, yours,

JA<sup>s</sup> SUTH<sup>r</sup>.

259. (4.) From THE SAME. Meeting at Lord Auchinleck's.

Edinburgh, 5th December 1766.

SANDY MACKENZIE told me he was to acquaint you that last Saturday Lord Afflect had all the tutors to sup with him, and Delven and Sandy was of the party; they met at seven that evening, and did not part till past one in the morning, and the conversation the whole time was on the affairs of the Countess. The Lord Justice Clarke and the other two Lords and Sir Adam Ferguson are clearly of opinion that Sir Robert Gordon can never succeed if he should attemp to trye for the titles. They agreed that Sir Robert should have a sight of any of the charters he would condescend upon, but befor that could be granted to him, he



most prove his propinquity. They likewise thought it right that all the charters that are favourable for the infant ought to be registrate. Lord Justice Clarke declared the strongest attachment to the child, but as her affairs might come before them, it would be hurting her interest if he was to accept, as he could not vote in her affairs. Lord Affleck seem'd to approve of that doctrine, but Lord Hales said he would accept, as he looks on it as a matter of conscience to fulfill the intentions of our departed friends. . . . Best wishes to Lady Betty and the lads.

JA<sup>a</sup>. SUTH<sup>a</sup>.

260. (5.) From THE SAME. Charter by King David the Second.

Edinburgh, 29th January 1767.

DEAR SIR,— . . . I suped with Mr. Burnet two nights ago, when he read over his searches into the titles of the family of Sutherland. He has collected with great pains and arranged them in such a manner that it most appear to every disinterested person that the Countess titles are as certain as her estate, and a charter is discover'd which plainly shows that as far back as King David the Second's time, they knew the distinction of heirs-male and heirs whatsoever, for the very same year that that king married his sister to William, Earl of Sutherland, and erected the earldom of Sutherland into a regality, he grants a charter to the said Earl, his brother-in-law, of a thanage in Aberdeenshire, to him and his heirs-male. Such a speciality as this clearly proves Countess Elizabeth's right to be Countess of Sutherland on her brother's death. Sir Robert Gordon is changing his ground (as it's said), and means to prove that there was no Earl of Sutherland till after Adam Gordon married Countess Elizabeth; in short, he is groping in the dark, and I imagine he expects, either from the chapter of accedents or mismanagement, to make up pretensions. Pray write the letter I mention'd to you, and I am, dear Sir, your affectionate humble servant,

JAMES SUTHERLAND.



## 261. (6.) From THE SAME. Meeting of counsel.

London, 20th March 1767.

DEAR SIR,—I would have wrote to you last night after I left Mr. York's chambers, but the infimation in my eyes, from a sever cold I have had for some days past, was so great that I could not bear to look on paper. I am a good deal better this day, and I hope in a few days I shall be able to go abroad as usual.

The council that met last night were Mr. York, Sir Flecher Norton, Mr. Wederburn, and Mr. Forrester. Mr. Gordon, our solciter, stated our case both for and against us in as strong a light as could be; and I most do the justice to Mr. Mackenzie that his attention brought them to explanations that was very essential for us to guard against; and the case of Cassells was perticularly pointed at, as that is the ground that Sir Robert has taken up. Was our proof more deficient then it really is, the council all agreed that upon the same principle of Cassells as our charters are to heirs general, that it makes for us.

All of them disaproves of making any stir for the infant till such time as she is attack'd, and all of them agree that it is the clearest case that ever was proposed to be brought befor the House of Peers. They are to give a sign'd opinion this day or Munday, a copy of which will be sent to you.

We have got Sir Robert's pedigree of the Gordons, Earls of Sutherland, which is erroneous; and Mr. Davidson, who has been so much hackned in falshood and impertinence in his Hamilton against the Douglas, that he thinks he may say whatever his raskally purposes points out without being taken notice of. I am well informd that Sir Robert is to petition the king, and our petition is preparing to defend ourselves, as Countess of Sutherland, and I am not sorry that we are to be attack'd; but I am informd that it will not get a hearing this



session, because it will take many weeks to produce the proper evidences; and I find it is resolved to put the enemy to every expence possible.

I am now to tell you that I divested myself of every sort of partiality when I met those gentlemen last night; and from the arguments they used both for and against the Countess' titles, I am perfectly satisfied of the justness of our cause, and the little danger there is of our losing them, if Sir Robert should insist to trye it. I am now anxious about Lady Betty. Pray let me hear from you, as many of your friends here enquire dayly at me about her. My best wishes attend you all; and I am, with great esteem, my dear Sir, your most obliged and affectionate humble servant,

JAMES SUTHERLAND.

*P.S.*—The people here pay great compliments to Lord Montbodo for his lucubrations on our affairs. Mr. Mackenzie and I think of speaking to the Duke of Atholl, and if His Grace aproves, we intend to buy a peice of plate for Lord Montbodo. I hope this will meet with your approbation.<sup>1</sup>

262. (7.) From ALEXANDER BOSWEL, LORD AUCHINLECK.

Petition for delay.

Edinburgh, 14th March 1770.

DEAR SIR,—I am just now come from a meeting of Lady Sutherland's tutors, who are now in town. We were astonished at the accounts sent us by you and Mr. Gordon, of an intention to have that very interesting cause of the peerage tried without allowing us an opportunity to disprove the many new averments in Sir Robert Gordon's case. We hope there is some mistake in this matter, for it does not seem possible that any Court wou'd proceed to try a cause which is

<sup>1</sup> The piece of silver plate is still at Monboddo.





properly a cause in fact, as it depends entirely on the usage of Scotland in antient times, without giving the parties an opportunity to ascertain the facts. We came to the resolution of directly sending up a petition to the House of Lords, praying a delay on these grounds, which appear unanswerable. It is to be subscribed by Lord Hailes, Sir Adam Fergusson, Mr. John Mackenzie, and your humble servant, all the tutors now in town, and goes by express to morrow. Meantime Sir Adam is preparing for his journey, half prepared as he is with materials, altho' I am hopeful the matter will be put off, and, if so, we shall be able to satisfy the House of Lords that Sir Robert's averments are as palpable misrepresentations as those he threw out in his first case, which, on seeing our case, he was forced to abandon. I have nothing further to add but to beg you may take the trouble to forward the enclosed to Sir John Pringle. I am, with great regard, dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ALEXR. BOSWEL.

263. (8.) From ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, Writer to the Signet, agent for the Countess of Sutherland. Lord Hailes to prepare the draft of the additional case.

Edinburgh, 7th May 1770.

SIR,—Since Sir Adam Fergusson came from London, Lord Hailes, he, and I have been considering the plan of the additional case for the Countess of Sutherland.

Lord Hailes agreed to prepare the first draught of it upon my furnishing him with remarks on the facts set furth in Sir Robert Gordon's supplemental case. These remarks I have now compleated, being above 100 pages, which I am to lay before Lord Hailes tomorrow. But as Sir Adam desir'd to be furnisht with a copy of my remarks, and to send them to him to Kilkerran, I am to send him them by first post



on your returning me the inclos'd covers, addresst to him, to inclose them. His address is 'To Sir Adam Fergusson of Kilkerran, Bart., by Maybole.'

I have no doubt but every man of candor will be satisfied from reading our additional case that there was just reason for our application to check the many gross willfull misrepresentations in Sir Robert's case; and I trust to the justice of our cause for a fair and attentive hearing. . . .

264. (9.) From THE SAME. Lord Hailes preparing the Case.

Edinburgh, 18 June 1770.

. . . Lord Hailes is bussly preparing the additional case, and Sir Adam Fergusson writes that he will be in town the end of this week. Yesterday I had the honour of a visit of Lady Alva, who told me that the little Countess was in perfect health. She told me also that the Dukes of Buccleugh and Montague have engaged to attend the hearing of the peerage, and have read the cases for that purpose. . . .

265. (10.) From THE SAME. Additional case by Lord Hailes.

Edinburgh, 22 August 1770.

SIR,— . . . Meantime I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Lord Hailes has very near finishd the additional case for the Countess, which is a work of very great learning and accuracy, and proves the many false assertions in Sir Robert Gordon's last case. His Lordship directs that it shall be printed here under his own eye, and I have already given the printers a specimen of it, agreeable to Lord Hailes's directions. We expect Mr. Solicitor Gordon will come in to town (as he is now in Clydesdale) to assist in revising the case, and Lord Hailes is to



carry it with him to Kilkerran, where he goes (after it's finisht) and get it revis'd and consider'd by Sir Adam Fergusson.

The Countess is in perfect health. I had the honour of dining with her this day at Lady Alva's. . . .

266. (11.) FROM THE SAME. Mr. Gordon to go to London.

Edinburgh, 23 October 1770.

SIR,—In consequence of a card from Mr. Anderson, I write this to acquaint you that the Countess of Sutherland's new case is now in very great forwardness. Lord Hailes has finisht the draught of it to a very few pages, and it is mostly revis'd by Sir Adam Fergusson, after which it is sent to the press, so that there are now upwards of 60 pages of it printed in large 4to, and I hope that next week it will be all printed and ready to be distributed, and, for the sake of dispatch, it is sent to Sir Robert Gordon's agent here by sheets, as it comes thrown off from the press. At first sight it will be thought long, but after reading, I'm persuaded it will not be thought so, as the many misrepresentations of fact and argument contain'd in Sir Robert's supplemental case render'd it necessary to explain and state the facts fully, in order to be sufficiently understood. Mr. Gordon, the solicitor, agrees to go to London to attend it, but he desires to know the terms upon which he goes before he setts out. Mr. Mackenzie thinks he should have a certain sum in case we lose, and so much more in case we prevail, so as to be a spurr to his attention and diligence. Mr. Gordon has been wrote to this purpose, and his answer is expected this week. When it comes you shall be acquainted. . . .

I very respectfully am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ALEXR. MACKENZIE.



267. (12.) From THE SAME. Consultation at New Hailes, etc.

Edinburgh, 6 November 1770.

SIR,—On Thursday last Mr. Gordon, solicitor, came to town to revise the case, and concert our plan of operation. After revising the whole case in ms. (which was compleated by Lord Hailes last week), he and I went out to New Hailes and conversed over it with his Lordship.

Mr Gordon is exceedingly well pleas'd with the case, and thinks we have brought clear evidence to confute Sir Robert Gordon's supplemental case, and has great hopes from it. Tho' long and full, Mr. Gordon thinks it the more proper, as it explains the whole case so clearly that every other Peer, as well as Lord Mansfield, will be able to be master of it and understand it, which they might not do was the case shorter. Mr. Gordon has wrote Mr. Wedderburn of his having revis'd and approven of it, so as Mr. Wedderburn may allow his name to be put to it, without his own revisal, along with Sir Adam Ferguson's. He has also wrote Mr. Spottiswood to attend the Bar, and acquaint Mr. Wedderburn, in case any motion is made by Sir Robert Gordon for the hearing, and that they may get the 20th of January, or any other day the House pleases to fix after the Christmas holydays, so as to give time to the judges and lawiers to consider the case before the hearing. He also desir'd Mr. Spottiswood to wait on Lord Mansfield, and explain to him the cause of the cases not being lodged on the 1st of September, viz., that Lord Hailes, who draws it, was one of the judges of the Court of Session, and so cou'd not get it sooner done, and that Sir Robert's agent here got it sheet by sheet as fast as it came from the press. I have this night sent Mr. Spottiswoode (by Colonel Munro) all that's printed of the case, being about 140 p. in 4to, and told him that I wou'd send him the rest by post as fast as it's printed. On Thursday I'm to send Mr. Wedderburn by post all that's printed. And I gave the Duke of Athol, in his way here to London, all that was then printed, so as





that he might be prepar'd. I hope the whole will be finisht in 4 or 5 days, as I keep the printers closs working even at by-hours to dispatch it. . . . Mr. Gordon promises to sett out for London as soon as the day for the hearing is fixt.

268. (13.) From THE SAME. The hearing of the case, etc.

Edinburgh, 20 November 1770.

. . . ON Saturday morning I dispatcht per express for London a large cloagbag full of the little Countess's new case, and have since sent about 400 copies more by sea and land. Mr. Spottiswood writes me that, after advising with the Duke of Athol, he and Sir Robert Gordon's solicitor were to fix on the 20th of January or thereabout for the hearing of the cause, in case the house wou'd agree to that time, which it is probable they will. . . .

Every person who has seen the case is highly pleasd with it. I've given Mr. Anderson a copy to be forwarded to you per first opportunity, and you may have more copies if you desire them. There is a vast demand here for them. Sir Adam Fergusson is come to town, and preparing for his appearance. . . .

269. (14.) From THE SAME. The case distributed among the Peers.

Edinburgh, 27 November 1770.

MR. SPOTTISWOOD writes me of his having received the copies of the additional case per express, and of their being immediately distributed among the Peers most likely to read them, particularly Lords Mansfield, Cambden, Marchmont, Littleton, Dartmouth, and many others. . . . All the lawiers and others who have read it [the case] here are convinced and delighted with it as a most valuable treatise on the subject. I hope it will have the same effect in London. There are now 700 copies sent thither, and the 300 I kept will scarce answer the vast demand made for it here. . . .



270. (15.) From THE SAME. Petition for hearing of the case.

Edinburgh, 5 December 1770.

. . . IMMEDIATELY on receipt of your letter of 28 November I put up two of Lady Sutherland's additional cases and sent them to Mr. Anderson, to be forwarded to you per first opportunity, which it seems did not offer till this day, when I got them back from Mr. Anderson's, and delivered them to your carrier in consequence of your card.

We must be the more sparing of them [copies of the additional case] that 120 copies which were sent in Beatson's ship are lost; however, there will be fully sufficient to answer every purpose.

Last week I sent orders to Mr. Spottiswood (after advising with all the tutors here) to present a petition for the Countess to appoint a day for the hearing, in case it had not been fixt before receipt of my letter. Sir Robert Gordon's agent here told me that he had sent instructions to Sir Robert's solicitor to apply for the hearing, so that I've no doubt of its coming on in January or the very beginning of February, which the Duke of Athol writes to Delvin. Our new case has convinced all the readers of it here, so that we have the general voice of our side, if that is of any consequence.

I have a letter this instant from Spottiswood, that by the Duke of Athol's opinion he was to make a motion in behalf of the Countess to have a day fixt for the hearing after 20 January, so that in a post or two I'll expect to hear that the day is accordingly fixt. . . .

271. (16.) From THE SAME. Meeting of Lady Sutherland's tutors.

Edinburgh, 10 December 1770.

SIR,—This day, on receipt of your letter of the 9th, I waited on Lords Auchinleck and Hailes, and Sir Adam Fergusson, who have all agreed to deferr the meeting on Lady Sutherland's affairs till Tuesday the 18th,



when you propose being here, however, in your way to London. Sir Adam Fergusson had also engaged company to dine with him on Friday, which made it inconvenient for him to attend, so that I hope Tuesday will answer all concern'd. I have wrote Lord Elgin for the 3d time to acquaint him of the day now fixt.

I look this evening for a letter from London, advising that the day is fixt for the hearing, but the post is not come when I write this. . . .

272. (17.) From THE SAME. Petition to fix a day for hearing the case.

Edinburgh, 11 December 1770.

SIR,—Mr. Spottiswood writes me that, in consequence of what I wrote him by order of the tutors here, and the Duke of Athol's opinion, he was to present a petition in name of the Countess praying to have a day fixt for the hearing, and that he was to notify this to the agents for Sir Robert Gordon and Forss, so as the petition might be mov'd on Monday the 10th (yesterday), the result of which we can't know before Friday or Saturday. Sir Robert's agent said he wou'd agree to the hearing coming on the 4th of February, but it's better to have it fixt by an order of the House. Mr. Gordon, our solicitor, is now here, and proposes setting out for London Saturday or Sunday next. . . .

273. (18.) ALEXANDER MACKENZIE to the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss. Report of Sir Robert Gordon's death.

Edinburgh, 25 January 1771.

. . . I propose setting out on Sunday. Meantime I inclose a letter which falls as properly to be addresst to you as any other, contradicting the report of Sir Robert Gordon's death. His son told me at same time that he did not imagine the hearing wou'd come on upon the day appointed, but that it woud be delayd for a week or two. By his staying here so long, he certainly relies upon a delay. . . .



274. (19.) ALEXANDER BOSWELL, LORD AUCHINLECK, to THE SAME.  
 Congratulations on the success of the Countess.

Auchinleck, 21 May 1771.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your very obliging letter. I always thought our young pupil's title to be Countess of Sutherland was quite clear, and yet I confess that her prevailing to have it ascertain'd gave me very great joy, for, as different men have different sentiments in matters of law, I was not without fears. God be thanked it is now over. It wou'd [have] been a shocking thing had the honours been separated from the estate, and that part of the estate which was purchased by my good freind, Lady Strathnaver, in the event of the young lady's death without childeren, go away to a stranger. Every body rejoices in the young lady's success, and, I may say further, in the knight's disappointment. My wife begs me to present her most respectfull compliments to Lady Betty Weemys, in which I must humbly join mine. We all bemoan the loss of worthy Lord Elgin.

I ever am, my dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

ALEXR. BOSWEL.

275. MR. LUKE FRASER, High School, Edinburgh, to THE SAME.  
 Death of Mr. Fraser's wife.

Edinburgh, October 3d, 1775.

MY DEAR SIR,—Little did I think the last time I wrote you that great distress was so near. It has pleased God to take away from me, by a fever of four days continuance only, my dearest and best friend. We have lived but a short short time together, but in the most pleasing and uninterrupted unity of heart. Now all my schemes are broken. I am twenty years older than when you saw me. I feel no desire after long life. I have a mother, indeed, with me, and two infant





daughters. Perhaps in life I may be of some small service to them. Yet I find it proper to compose myself, if possible, into a decent posture of dying; and they poor orphans will be the care of the Father of the fatherless. May God make you long, long the happiest of fathers and of husbands. What a blessing is it that your children have all such good dispositions. May these good dispositions never be corrupted by intercourse with the world. The bad habits of youth give pain to riper years. God preserve them from these pains. You will easily pardon me in all this freedom. I only meant to tell you. I have received a letter from the young man, and he is willing to accept of the offer, but must receive another letter from me before he can be engaged; so you can hardly expect to see him in less than three weeks, as he is about 100 miles distant, and may have several things to settle before he can come away. Neither can I write him before Saturday, that being the first post day for Galloway. Shall, if I live, provide one to read mathematicks privately with Mr. William. As to my reading with him, 'tis hard to say. All I can say is this, I shall not engage to give an hour to any new scholar while any son you have requires an hour. But how I shall go abroad after school hours I cannot tell. To leave a mother solitary who has buried her husband and eleven children.—No more. Forgive me. And I am your most obedient servant,

LUKE FRASER.

276. J. STUART, Amisfield, to [the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss].  
Flood at Haddington.

Amissfield, October 4 [1775], eight at night.

BEFORE I proceed, I must inform you that your brother and all this family are well; Lady K. greatly better: but there never was known such a scene of desolation in these parts. At this moment the whole town of Haddington is under water; it is supos'd most of the houses



on the Nungate next the river are carried away, but all communication being cut off with both the Nungate and town, it is impossible to say what lives may be lost, or what damage sustain'd. The cries of the unhappy people were peircing. For some hours all kinds of household furniture, beds, bedding, chests, etc. etc., have been passing with the flood; also cows, sheep, swine; but I saw no corps. It is impossible to describe the appearance of the country, but you may form some idea from most of the statues in the bowling green being carried away, and the fields to the east a perfect sea; to the west, the cowfield is quite overflow'd, the washing-house under water, and up to the cowhouse. The cows are saved, but I fear poor Favorite must go, as I left him about an hour ago, standing to his chest in water, and surrounded as by a sea for half a mile; most part of the paddock and park walls from the west gate to the river are gone. On the road leading to the gate from the Nungate there was a body of seven feet water, it being above the thresholds of the doors; the people had got into the eastermost house (the smith's house), where, although we cou'd speak to them, we cou'd give them no help; but I hope it will stand. I thought of various methods to assist them, but the stream was so rapid, and such heavy beams and other things coming down, it was impossible to sweem a cask or the like across. The water is falling, but it still rains very hard; it will be a dismal night to many people. At dawn of day I shall sally forth, to give what assistance I can. All the west strip of planting is full of chests, bedding, etc. etc., stopt by the trees. Mr. Charteris has been splashing about, giving all the help in his power, ordering drink, spirits, etc., for the poor people who have escaped from their houses. The wooden bridges at Hadington and Ledington are gone. The damage above and below we know nothing of; but what circumstances I can collect before I can get this to the post office you shall have. Mr. Charteris and I were to have been with you to-morrow, but this will alter our plans. The rain came on last



night about seven, and not very heavy. The barometer at changeable. The waters rising *all at once*, has occasion'd such mischief. Excuse inaccuracies, as I write in haste, and am a little fatigued.

Thursday morning, nine o'clock.—We are just come in from wading for these three hours. At daybreak Mr. Charteris order'd out all the servants and workmen, carts and horses, to save what we cou'd. As yet we hear of no lives lost, but from vague reports the water was three feet deep at Haddington Cross, and had not your brother's park wall given way, all that part of the town next the river must have gone, the water being 10 and 12 feet, with a great current. Clerkenton House is partly carried away. Favorite is saved. The water rose so suddenly that people in the gardens cou'd not gain the houses, but hung for hours on the trees. Had it happen'd in the night, hundreds must have perish'd. Adieu in haste.

J. STUART.

Indorsed: J. Stuart, Haddington, 4 October '75.

277. GENERAL JAMES GRANT of Ballindalloch, Governor of Virginia, to [THE SAME]. The army at Boston.

Boston, 1st December 1775.

DEAR SIR,—I don't sit down to write news. You will have better information than I can give you, and will hear in a House of Commons debate of every battery and every gun round Boston. We don't live in luxury, and your London markets are a joke to our expense for provisions of every kind; that can't always last, so I go on, do the best I can, laugh at the Yankees as we have not yet contrived to disperse them, give a dinner to eight officers every day, when the meat fails 'tis made up in wine, and upon the whole get through one month after another in perfect health. The Boyne sails to-morrow or next day. The captain offers me a passage, and I have General Howe's leave in consequence of a letter which I brought out from Lord Dartmouth to



General Gage; but it looks like getting out of a scrape. This army is in too critical a situation to leave it, and therefore I have declined the pleasure of seeing you and my other friends in town for this winter. If a regiment does not walk in I shall begin to think myself ill employed, for in point of money this is the worst campaign I ever made.

I am not alarmed at Ulbster's petition. I gave Mr. Spotswood all the information I could, left him every paper relating to the election, and directed him to correspond with Sandy Mackenzie in case my antagonists should ridiculously persevere in an unmeaning attack. If anything should happen, be kind enough to attend to it.

I think Stuart Mackenzie will take shame to himself. Without the least wish or intention to oblige him, I have contrived to get his nephew, Captain Stuart, the majority of the 43d Regiment, from being a young captain in the 35th. I asked it as a favor of General Gage when he was going away, and General Howe at my request interested himself warmly for him. It was the only purchase General Gage agreed to; he signed the commissions, in every other instance he only recommended.

— Sutherland, Siebercross's son, is appointed an ensign to the fortieth Regiment. I could not recollect the christened name, so it is left blank. I send you enclosed a note to be forwarded to the father. He must endeavor to raise a few recruits, and the boy must join the other recruiting officers and come out with them when they are ordered to return to the regiment. If this business continues I could provide for all the Sutherlands in the country; a commission is an easier business than a tyde or a land-waiter. There was some difficulty as Siebers' son was not upon the spot, but my good friend the General gave way to oblige me, and in fact having done so was under a sort of necessity of accomodating others, which was contrary to his intention. Upon the whole our friend Siebers will see that we don't forget him,





tho' elections are at a distance, and it should be the more pleasing to him, as it is a favor unasked

My best respects and wishes attend Lady Betty and all the family. Do drop me a line at times, and believe me always, my dear Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

JAMES GRANT.

278. SIR HECTOR MUNRO to THE SAME. Mr. Wemyss' son in India.

Fort St. George, 20 April 1779.

MY DEAR SIR,—As I am just returned from a tour of near three months absence from Madrass, I must defer writing you fully till our next dispatch, which will be some time next month. Your son is with me and is in good health. All I shall say now is that Lady Betty and you may rest assured I shall not only take care of him, but pay every attention in my power to his conduct, so as to prevent his getting into any improper people's company; at same time, I am convinced he will be carefull of his own accord to avoid such company. Capt. Clunes, my cousin, is now with me here as my secretary, but as my stay here will be but short his must be so too, and as I understand from him that he gave in proposals to the family of Sutherland for his father's farm in Sutherland, I must request your good offices in this matter. He has a large family of children, his family in a manner belonging to, and are the property of the Countess. Will you, my dear Sir, do me the favour to get him this farm, for I have his welfare much at heart, and I will endeavour before he leaves India to enable him to fulfill his engagements for the farm he wants. My best respects wait of Lady Betty, for whom I have an unalterable attachment, as I ought, for her Ladyship and family. Believe me, my dear Sir, your much obliged and ever obedient humble servant,

HECTOR MUNRO.



279. ELIZABETH, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to THE SAME.

Appointing Mr. Greenfield to be chaplain of the Sutherland fencibles.

Edinburgh, July 12th, 1779.

DEAR SIR,—I understand by Mr. Mackenzie that you wish me to say something decisive concerning the chaplain to the Sutherland Fencibles. I am exceedingly sorry that my early engaging for Mr. Greenfield has been the cause of so much anxiety and uneasiness to my friends. It was far from my intention to give you so much trouble, or to show any disrespect to the Sutherland clergy; but I was informed that if any of them had been appointed they could not attend the regiment, but must have appointed a deputy. This being the case, I was induced to promise all my interest to Mr. Greenfield, a person of great merit, and a relation of my father's, who I was assured could act by a deputy with as great propriety as any other, and dividing the salary might for that purpose chuse the late Mr. John Sutherland's son, or any other that should be found most agreeable to the people. I am very sorry I was not informed at first of the weighty objections to Mr. Greenfield; if I had, it would certainly have prevented my engaging so far in his behalf; but having promised, think I cannot with honour draw back; but if you find the objections to him insurmountable, I must beg, my dear Sir, you will determine the matter yourself, and hope you will expect no more of me on the occasion than a strict silence; and though your determination may not be quite agreeable to my wish, yet I can never doubt of its being meant for my honour and interest by my dear uncle, whose constant attention to my affairs, and goodness to myself, on all occasions demand every return of gratitude and affection. I beg my love and best respects to Lady Betty and cousins, and have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your affectionate niece and most obliged humble servant,

E. SUTHERLAND.



280. FREDERICK, LORD NORTH, to THE SAME. Requesting his attendance at the House of Commons.

Downing Street,  
Saturday, April 15, 1780.

(Private.)

(By express.)

DEAR SIR,—I am extremely sorry that indisposition has prevented your giving that attendance in Parliament since the holidays which I flatter myself you are desirous of giving in the present very critical conjuncture. As a question of the most essential consequence is fixed to be brought before the House of Commons on *Monday se'n night*, I cannot resist troubling you with this letter to express to you how very important it is at this time that every friend to the constitution of this country should give his attendance in Parliament; and therefore I hope you will allow me to suggest to you my most earnest wishes that you would attend the House of Commons on the day above mentioned. I am, with great respect and regard, dear Sir,

Your most faithfull humble servant,

NORTH.

Hon. Mr. Wemyss, etc. etc. etc.

281. ADMIRAL RICHARD KEMPENFELT to THE SAME. Informing him that his son was quite well.

Royal George, St. Helens,  
June 28th, [17]82.

DEAR SIR,—I have just received yours of the 21st instant. The young gentleman, your son, is got quite well, and Captain Waghorn is very well disposed to pay all necessary attention to him, in which I shall not be wanting myself. I hope your family are all well. Am obliged for your kind wishes, and am, with great esteem, dear Sir, your most obedient servant,

R. KEMPENFELT.

The Honorable James Wemyss.



282. CHARLES WEMYSS to his Father, the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss. Escape at the foundering of the Royal George.

August 30th, Portsmouth, 1782.

DEAR FATHER,—Thank God I am well and out of all danger. But, alas! poor Admiral Kempenfelt was drowned in his cabin, and Major Graham. As for the other particulars relating to this unfortunate accident, I shall inform you of in my next letter. Give my duty to my mother, and love to my sister and brothers.

I am, your dutiful son,

CHA<sup>R</sup>. WEMYSS.

*P.S.*—Capt. Waghorn has supplied me with what necessaries I want for the present.

The honorable James Wemyss, M.P., Wemyss Castle, Fifeshire, N.B.

283. CHARLES WEMYSS to his Father, the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss. Sinking of the Royal George.

September 13th, Portsmouth, 1782.

DEAR FATHER,—I received your letter to-day, and I am very happy to hear that you are well. I had the luck to save thirteen shirts and 17 pair of stockings which I had sent ashore to be washed, along with my little trunk in the boat, which was a going to the recalls with near 60 men in her, and had left the ship about 5 minutes when she sank. I was in the gun room when the accident happened, and I climbed up to one of the starboard ports by the help of the tiller rope, the ship being upon her beam ends, and I caught hold of one of the men's jackets that was a getting out of the port (for the water was over my head before I could get out of it), and the man brought me above water with him. I took hold of a grating, and then got upon





the topmast shrouds, which are above water, and in about half an hour afterwards was picked up by the Buffaloe's boat and carried on board of the Buffaloe, where I was very well treated. I am at Mr. Barton's at present. The officers that were drowned were Mr. Saunders, 1st lieutenant, Admiral Kempenfelt, Mr. M'Killop, 4th lieutenant, Major Graham of Marines, and Lieutenant Currie, Mr. Sarrel, the master, Mr. Bertram, the surgeon, Mr. Beumont and Mr. Cleland, surgeon's mates, and Mr. Delaplace. The master's mates were Messrs. Buchanan, Sullivan, Cock, Wilkins, Bradie, and Jones, and Mr. Kenwood, mate of the hold. The midshipmen were Messrs. Fish, Grinless, Story, Hamilton, Gray, Diverne, Lys, Frazer, Billing, and Waghorn, the captain's nephew, Messrs. Culpack and Davies, captain's under clerks, and about 700 men, women, and children, were drowned. Mr. Saunders, the 1st lieutenant, was picked up two days ago, and I was at his burial. Mr. Sarrell, the master, was also picked near St. M . . . , but he smelt so offensively that they were obliged to sow him up in a hammock and sink him by weights. Mr. Waghorn, the captain's nephew, was also picked up and buried. Mr. Wemyss, the lieutenant of marines, is here at present. I saw [him] t'other day. Give my love to my mother, my sister and brothers.

I am, your dutiful son,

CHA<sup>R</sup>. WEMYSS.

284. FRANCIS WEMYSS to his Father, the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS  
of Wemyss. Death of the Count of Albany.

Douay, 6 April 1783.

MY DEAR FATHER,—I am very happy to inform you that I have made some progress in the French language since I wrote you. I began to learn forti[fi]cation t'other day; 'tis an amazing pleasant study. I am to get a music master to-morrow. I have not yet begun riding;



it [is] a very difficult thing to get it here, as there are no riding schools but the military, and they allow no foregner to come in there.

I have a particular piece of news to tell you, and that is, that the Count of Albany (I shall say no more) died at Florence about a fortnight ago. You may depend upon it being true.

Mr. Grant had a letter from a gentleman who saw my brother at his house in Dundee; I am glad to hear he is well.

We have most excellent weather here at present, but I think it a little too hot. The wind from whence the best weather comes is the S.E., and the wind from whence the worst weather comes is the N.W. The French call it the *vente de Ecosse*; they say no good comes from that country.

I begin to like the manners of this country better than what I did. I must own that it is a pleasant country, but I think it rather too hot. You can't think what a noise the frogs make at night; they are enough to deaf one.

I am told the Emperor has dismissed all the religious orders.

I think of all the people I have seen in the world the Flemans are the kindest hearted; we have a great many in our college; they are all very fond of me, but as for the Frenchmen, they don't care a twopence for me, nor any other body but themselves.

I have got acquainted with several French officers; as many as I am acquainted with are all very civil and polite.

Mr. Grant presents his most respectfull compliments to you. Give my kindest love to my mother, my sister and brothers, and I ever remain,

Your most affectionate and dutiful son,

F. WEMYSS.

The honorable Mr. Wemyss, M.P., Wemyss Castle, Fife, N.B.  
Angleterre.



285. CHARLES WEMYSS to his Father, the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss. Voyage with the Prince to the Elbe. Indorsed 3 September 1783.

DEAR FATHER,—We sailed from Deptford last Saturday five weeks in the *Augusta*. The lie[u]tenant and me had the honour to man the side for the Prince, and Mr. McInzy steered him. The yatch saluted him with 7 guns, and hoisted the royal standard as soon as he put off from the shore. He was likewise saluted at Woolwich, Tiltbury Fort, and Gravesend and Sheerness, as also by all the ships at the Nore, where we were joined by the *Mermidon* frigate, *Flirt* brigg, and the *Kite* cutter. We had very bad weather all the voyage, and were almost cast away as we were going into the river Elve. The Prince landed at Stadt, where he was saluted by the shipping and the forts. I was ashore at Stadt, and at Hambrough and Alteney, but I saw nothing remarkable, except that the ladies rode stride legs upon horse back, and wore boots. I[n] coming back we had fine weather for some days; but the wind coming against us, drove us so far to the northward that we were obliged to go into Yarmouth Roads, and from thence we tided up to Deptford, where we arrived on Friday. I am in very good health at present. Give my love to my mother and Jamie. I am, your dutiful son,

CHA<sup>s</sup>. WEMYSS.

The honorable Mr. Wemyss, M.P., Wemyss Castle, Fife, N.B.

286. THE SAME to THE SAME. Visit of the Prince—Houses in Germany.

Deptford, September 18, 1783.

DEAR FATHER,—I received your letter yesterday, and have written to Sir Charles Middleton, according to your directions. I am very happy to hear that my mother and brothers are in good health.



The Prince did not take much notice of any of the officers. He asked me what ships I had been in, and how long I was at sea. But he was not at all familiar with any body, except the captain of the ship and Captain Merick of the navy, and General Debuda, who were his companions. I was ashore at Stadt, at Hamburg, Alteney, and Crookshaven. I could not see one [good] looking house in any of these places. The houses were all built in the form of tombstones. The merchant's houses are the best-looking in the outside; but in the inside there was only a large hall, with two or three small rooms on each side. There are very few carriages there, most of the people riding a sort of a long cart with thaurts to it. The first people I saw on horseback were an officer in the navy and his lady. The officer was dressed in a suit of blue, trimmed with gold lace, and the lady in an olive coloured riding habit. She had a little cock'd hat on, with a cockade in it, and her hair, which was very long, tied in a chub at the very end. The people there smoke very much, there is scarce a person you see without a pipe in his mouth.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutton presents their respectful complements to you. Give my love to my mother and Jamie. I am, your dutiful and affectionate son,

CHA<sup>s</sup>. WEM[YSS].

The honorable Mr. Wemyss, M.P., Wemyss Castle, Fife, N.B.

287. The Right Honourable WILLIAM PITT to the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss, M.P. Business in Parliament.

Berkely Square, Sunday, December 28th, [Indorsed 1783].

SIR,—Some very important business will come before the House of Commons upon the twelfth of January, the day to which it is adjourned. Although you have not hitherto attended in the course of this session, you are probably not unacquainted with the questions that have agitated both Houses of Parliament. It is my intention to bring





forward a measure relative to the Government of India, which, I flatter myself, will be productive of very beneficial consequences to the public without being liable to any of those great objections which were thought to attend the Bill lately introduced. I therefore earnestly entreat your attendance, trusting with confidence that, if the measure meets your approbation, it will receive your cordial support. I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

W. PITT.

288. ADMIRAL J. GAMBIER to the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss. His son in the naval service.

Jamaica, 2d February [17]84.

I AM favor'd with your wishes about your young mariner. He shall ever comand every act of real kindness from me. I feel what it is to be a father. My brother the comptroller mention'd to me some-time before I sail'd that you meditated some time hence a wish of putting your son under my patronage after he shou'd have completed his present erudition, but that you did not purpose he shou'd accompany me out. Sir Charles will from time to time know my evolutions and future destiny, and will communicate such to you.

If it shall please God Almighty to restore Mrs. Gambier to health, and thereby me to happiness, her affection may probably get the better of her just dread of crossing the Atlantic ever again, for when she accompany'd me to America she had near paid the forfeit of her life for the proof she gave me of her love, being dangerously ill the whole passage backwards and forwards, altho' I was with her to nurse and keep up her spirits, but without her coming out to me I cou'd not think of being absent from her three years to make her miserable every moment of that time; three years at my time of life is too great a length of time to be separated from a lov'd wife and children. But whatever be my fate or wherever it may be my lot to comand, I will upon every



occasion be happy to show my friendship and esteem for you by receiving and shewing every kind office to your son ; being very truly, dear Sir, your most faithfull humble servant,

J. GAM[BIER].

Honorable James Wemyss.

289. GENERAL ALEXANDER CAMPBELL to GENERAL WEMYSS.

The latter's carriage overturned.

Monzie, 16th September 1815.

MY DEAR GENERAL,—I dined yesterday at Ochertyre, and Sir Peter told me that he had lately received a letter from you, intimating your intention of being soon in this country, which gave me much joy, when up spoke a thing they call a Lord, by the name of Pittmilly, gidevant Davy Monypenny, and emitted the following evidence, viz., “that the said General Wemyss had been overturned, coupt, or whumbled in his carriage, to the great damage of his person, on his return from dining with a reverend clergyman, whose name he could not recollect, nor could he testify to the exact amount of damage the person of the said General actually received.” On being cross-examined, he admitted that the parish of Auchtertool might be that of your entertainer ; and I immediately called to mind the sage person who came upon our flank at the end of an engagement at Wemyss Castle, as Blucher did at Waterloo, and, I believe, with the same success. But seriously, I will be obliged to you if you will let me know how you are, and whether you are much hurt ; above all, I hope you will be able to make out your purpose of visiting this country. The parsons here do not ask people to dinner, so you will be safe that way. My best wishes to all at Wemyss Castlé. Believe me ever yours most faithfully,

ALEX. CAMPBELL.

General Wemyss, M.P., Wemyss Castle, Dysart.



III.—CORRESPONDENCE OF FRANCIS, BARON AND COUNT  
DE WEYMES OF VIENNA, WITH DAVID, SECOND EARL  
OF WEMYSS, AND JAMES WEMYSS, LORD BURNT-  
ISLAND, HIS SON-IN-LAW.

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290. FRANCIS, BARON DE WEYMES, to DAVID, SECOND EARL OF  
WEMYSS—About Cornelius Wemyss and his descendants.  
Vienna, 5th August 1676.

[Translated from the original in French.]

SIR,—Having for a long time past had a desire for such an opportunity, and meeting with a young man named Robert Mathie, a Scotchman, who told me that he had the honour to know you, I took the liberty of consigning a letter to his care, since he was returning to Scotland; and this having prompted me to seek for other opportunities, I have thought it fitting to apply again to you with this letter by way of London, since, though I am not known to you, you may perhaps be pleased if, in offering you my most humble respects and services, I also give you some information about persons who went from that country a long time ago, and have the honour to be of the family whose name you bear.

You must know, then, sir, that about eighty or ninety years ago there went from Scotland a person named Cornelius of the family of Wemyss; he was a captain in Flanders, and died at the battle of Nieuport. He left three sons and one daughter, who was a nun at Bruges. Of the three sons, the oldest, likewise named Cornelius, was a captain in the service of the Venetians in the year 1620, where also Andrew and Leonard, the other two brothers, were afterwards.

Leonard died young. Andrew became a captain in the service of the



Emperor, and died in Bohemia. Cornelius married in Italy, having taken to wife a gentlewoman of the family of Andreis, of the province of Brescia, in the State of Venice, on which occasion he purchased some property, and fixed his residence there.

He died four months ago, eighty-four years of age, having been colonel and sergeant-general de bataille; and the Duke of Mantua, in the time of the wars forty-six years ago, gave him the title of Baron. He left three sons and three daughters. I, Francis, am the oldest, and have been in the service of the Emperor for sixteen years, in the rank of colonel, quartermaster-general, and engineer of fortifications, particularly of this city of Vienna, where I reside when not employed with the army.

Another of my brothers, named Alexander, is in the service of the Venetians in the office of colonel and governor of the Fort of Asola. Andrew, the last brother, is governor for the Venetians of Cataro, in Dalmatia, where he is married, and has a son and a daughter. Of my sisters, one was married to a gentleman of Brescia, who is dead, and has left a number of children; my second sister is abbess of a monastery at the above-mentioned Asola. The last sister is married at Venice to one of the family of Piatti, who is a gentleman of the city of Bergamo, but he lives at Venice for trade, and they are very rich. Our arms are, a lion rampant *or*, in a field *azure*, with a star in the left paw and a sword in the other. In the book of the arms of Scotland for the nobility there occur three different coats of arms of the family of Wemyss, among which there is one that has the lion rampant in a field yellow or *or*. It is possible that we are descended of that branch. I must, however, request you, sir, to be pleased to communicate your opinions on this to me, and whether there be any record of the fact; as also if you, at your pleasure, will give me an account of your family and other relations, their offices, dignities, and other particulars, such will be very agreeable and a great obligation to me. And you may





rest assured that in Italy, and in this place, while I remain here, you have those who already bear a particular esteem and affection for you, and offer themselves for the honour of your commands. We shall also pray to God for the prosperity of all your family; and if it please you we shall sometimes hold correspondence by letters, for some of our family may come to Scotland or you may visit Italy.

For letters, I believe the shortest and safest way is by way of London; therefore I send this there, recommended to a person to address it to Edinburgh, where I presume it will afterwards come to your hands. If you are pleased to reply, address the letter to London, whence they can send it here, or give it there to Mons. Saroti, Resident in London for the Republic of Venice, whom I shall ask in that case to direct it to me.

With which I remain, sir, your most humble and most obedient servant,

FRANCOIS, BARON DE WEYMES.

291. DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, to FRANCIS, BARON DE WEYMES. The Baron descended from the Caskieberry branch of the family. (28th September 1676.)

[Translated from the original draft in French.]

SIR,—I have received yours of the 5th of August, which gave me much gratification. That friendship which I have for all those who are descended from my family would have rendered your letter very agreeable, even if it had not informed me that you and your brothers bear offices which do us great honour; but these testimonies of your merit add still more to our joy, for we all here are very much gratified both because of your good fortune and for the honour of the house of which you are descended. About the time mentioned in your letter five sons of the house of Caskeberrie (a cadet of our family)



went to Flanders, one of whom I believe was your grandfather, who was killed at the battle of Nieupoort. James Wemyss, Lord of Burntisland, is heir of that branch of our family and has married my daughter. He is much pleased to learn your news. I send you an account of the origin and progress of our family, with the arms; and if you wish a borebrief or testificate of your birth according to the custom of those who have settled among foreigners, I shall send you one under the great seal of the kingdom. And I offer heartily to you and your brothers all the assistance and marks of friendship which are in the power of, etc.

[Another short draft letter, probably written at the same time by James, Lord Burntisland, is to the effect that he had read the baron's letter to his father-in-law, the Earl of Wemyss, with the utmost gratification at learning the interest he had in persons of so much merit, and nearly related to him, being descended of the same branch of the family. He regrets much that he did not know the fact sooner, otherwise when he was travelling in France and Germany, where he was at the election and coronation of the emperor, he would have made a journey to Italy for the purpose of seeing the baron and his brothers; and he hopes to keep up a correspondence.]

292. Letter (writer unknown) to FRANCIS, BARON DE WEYMES.  
Account of the family of Wemyss. *Circa* 28th September 1676.

[Translated from the original draft in French.]<sup>1</sup>

SIR,—My Lord, the Earl of Wemyss, being desirous to satisfy your proper inquiries, has left it to me to give you this account of his

<sup>1</sup> It is to be noted that the pedigree of the family of Wemyss, as given in this and the following letter, and in the borebrief or birth-brief on pages 279-286, is not in accordance with recent investigations from more accurate sources.



family, which would not well accord with that modesty for which he is much esteemed in our country. You must know, then, that the province of Fife is one of the largest in Scotland, and the richest. This province was the patrimony of MacDuff, Earl of Fife, of whom the families of Wemyss and Mackintosh are descended. The family of Wemyss takes its name from the marine caves, which are very large and in very great numbers near the house. One of the family, which is very ancient, was ambassador four hundred years ago, and another commanded the armies of Queen Mary. The father of the present earl was "viceroy" (commissioner) for the wise King James the Sixth, and was made earl or count by him; and the family is at present in much estimation, and enjoy large possessions. The Earl has at present only one daughter, by the sister of our chancellor, the Earl of Rothes, who is chief of the family of Count Leslie. This only daughter is married to the Lord of Burntisland, who bears the name of Wemyss, and who is heir of the family of Caskiberrie, of which you are descended. For about the time mentioned in your letter, five sons of Caskiberrie went to Flanders. There are many gentlemen who bear the name of Wemyss here who are all well pleased to learn that there are kinsmen of theirs among strangers, who possess titles and offices which indicate so great merit; and they will count it a high honour to maintain a correspondence so pleasant to them. You will find in the Earl and his son-in-law, qualities worthy of your friendship, and both of them sustain very well the character of their illustrious house. The sister of the young lady is married to the Duke of Monmouth, son of the king, and hence it happens that the king is very much interested in the affairs of their house; being also very much their friend because the Duke of Albemarle acknowledged that he was persuaded by the earl and his wife to recall the king from his exile. The Earl has sent you the arms of his family. The red lion forms the arms proper to the family of Wemyss, and the black lion came to them by the marriage of an heiress



of the family of Glen. The true blazon is quartered 1 and 4 *or*, a lion rampant *gules*, 2 and 3 *argent*, a lion rampant *sable*, armed and langued *gules*; for crest, a demi-swan volant, and for supporters two swans *argent*; the motto, *Je pense*.

293. ACCOUNT of the FAMILY OF WEMYSS, sent to BARON WEYMES. Origin of the family and name. *Circa* 28th September 1676.

[Translated from the original draft in French.]

THE house of Wemyss is descended from Macduff, who, having slain in battle the tyrant Macbeth, and restored King Malcolm Canmore, who had been driven out of his kingdom by Macbeth, was created about the year 1057, Duke of Fife, which is one of the largest and richest provinces in Scotland.

The first of the family of Wemyss was a cadet of Macduff, and took his name from the sea caves, which are large and numerous near the house—the word Wemyss in the ancient language of Scotland meaning caves. The family is esteemed one of the most ancient of the province of Fife, and is at present in great credit, and enjoys large possessions. One of the family was a knight and an ambassador about four hundred years ago, and received as a present a silver basin, which is yet in the family. The father of the present earl was a (“viceroy”) commissioner of Scotland, and was married to a daughter of Lord Gray, the premier baron of the kingdom. David, his son, the present earl, is sixty-six years of age, and has been thrice married. His first wife was a daughter of Lord Burghly, chief of the family of the name of Balfour. By her he had several children who are all dead, except one daughter that was married to the eldest son of the Marquis of Douglas, one of the most illustrious families of the kingdom. His second wife was a daughter of the





Earl of Wigtown, chief of the family named Fleming, who died without children. His third wife, who is still alive, and who also has been thrice married, is a daughter of the Earl of Rothes, chief of the family of Leslie, of which Count Leslie in Germany is descended. Her brother, the present Earl of Rothes, has been several years commissioner ("viceroi") of the kingdom, and great treasurer, and is at present high chancellor—a person of much sagacity and courage. Her first husband was the eldest son of the Earl of Leven, by whom she had several children. Afterwards she was married to the Earl of Buccleuch, by whom she had also several children, who are all dead, except one daughter who is heiress of that great family, and is married to the Duke of Monmouth. She is now married to the Earl of Wemyss, by whom also she has had several children, but there is only one daughter alive, who is heiress of the family of Wemyss. She is about eighteen years of age, and is married to James Wemyss, Lord of Burntisland, descended of the family of Caskieberrie, a cadet of the house of Wemyss. By him she has one daughter, and is at present with child.

294. FRANCIS, BARON DE WEYMES, to JAMES, LORD BURNTISLAND.

The arms of the family and the Borebrief. Vienna, 17th  
December 1676.

[Abridged from the original in French.]

THE baron writes that last Sunday by ordinary post from London he had received the packet, in which his lordship acknowledged his letter of the 5th August last, seeking for information regarding his family, which, according to the narrative of the writer's father, was one of the most ancient, illustrious, and principal in Scotland, and bore a lion rampant in their arms. When the baron's grandfather died in Flanders, where he was born, his father was left very young, who



having thereafter devoted himself solely to the service of arms, had not the curiosity to search further, and the baron knowing nothing further of the surname he bore, had long nursed a desire for more information. At length a young man from Scotland told him so much that he took courage to write Lord Burntisland. The baron expresses his great joy and satisfaction that he had the honour of the earl's letter and his lordship's, because they brought him information he had long desired, which agreed with what little he knew; that there was some memory in Scotland of the setting out of cadets of the family, of whom doubtless one was his grandfather; that at present there was so worthy a chief as Earl David, and in particular that Lord Burntisland was sprung of the same branch as himself. He had communicated the agreeable letters to his brothers. With a little more leisure he would send a detailed narrative of the careers of his father, himself, and brothers. On examining the arms that Lord Burntisland had sent him, he perceived a difference in the colours, for his ancestors had made a lion rampant *or*, in a field *azure*, and it ought to have been *or*, with a lion rampant *gules*. His father always told him that the essential of the arms was the lion rampant. But as his father was no herald, he might easily have taken one colour for the other. Why, afterwards, the lion rampant they had held in his paws a sword and a star, he did not know, unless they had been bestowed by some prince on his grandfather, or come through marriage. Further, the baron explains the difference in spelling the name by the difference in the Italian pronunciation, and states that the testificate of their origin which Earl David meant to send would be of advantage, for being strangers, and having nothing but words to produce, they had had controversies, which, however, had been always surmounted, so that they had always held considerable military offices. He prays God that Lady Burntisland may have a happy delivery. His sister, who had been married five years ago at Venice, had no children, which she



and her husband longed for, as he was an only son, and his father was old and infirm, and very rich, being worth half a million of money.

FRANCOIS, BARON DE WEMYSS.

295. B. SKELTON, British Envoy at Vienna, to JAMES, LORD BURNTISLAND. The character of Count Weymes. Vienna, June 13, 1677.

MY LORD,—I received the honor of your lordship's of the 14 of Aprill, wherein yow are desirous I should send yow a charracter of your Lordship's kinsman, Comte Wemys, which cannot be done by any as know him but extreemly to his advantage: his father and selfe, with two or three brothers, having served the State of Venice for severall yeares in honorable imployments, wherein they gained great reputation, two of his brothers being as yet in that service collonells and governors of places in Dalmatia, and are very well settled, and one of them marryed. And as for this gentleman, hee is ingenier of this place, and, I thinke, of the fortresses in Hungary, in one of which, at Raab, hee hath a free compagny, but hee hath from the emperor the title of a collonell, though noe regiment; and whilest Montecuculi comanded the imperiall army hee was quarter master generall, which imployment hee refused after the Duke of Lorrayne came to heade the troopes; and, indeede, his age renders him almost vncapable of going through soe much fatigue as that charge requires. The Venetian ambassador at this court hath given me a greate charracter of him. This is all I am able to say in this particuler. The greate esteeme I ever had for your lordship makes me desirous of serving yow, and [I] should be extreame joyfull to have an occasion whereby I might testify with how much respect and truth I am, my lord, your lordship's most faythfull humble servant,

B. SKELTON.

To the Lord Burntisland.



296. JAMES, LORD BURNTISLAND, to B. SKELTON, Envoy at Vienna.  
Miscarriage of a Letter to Baron Weymes (24th September 1677. [Original draft.]

I RETURNE you many thanks for the account you gave me of my cousin, Francis Lord Wemys, at Vienna, and his brothers, which hath given me much satisfaction, and am glad to finde my kinsmen so well settled in a forraig[n]e countrey. I thinke my selfe obliged to doe them all the service that lies in my power. I am sending them over there borebreife or certificate of there extraction vnder the greate seale of Scotland, which may be of vse to them. I sent to my cousin at Vienna in Aprill last the copie of it, which he writes to me is miscarried, and I wonder at it the more since the letter I write to you was inclosed in his pacquett, and that you should receive yours and his miscarry. The Duchess of Monmouth sent the pacquett to the secretaries office, and recomended it to be sent. I cannot imagine how it could miscary, except they have sent it to the post-hous without a cover, and there, the pacquet being large, they have broke it vp and laid asside his letters, he being a stranger, and sent forwards yours. I am newly returned from Edinburg, wher I dranke your good health with severall of your acquaintance. I esteeme my selfe very much obliged to you, and should thinke my selfe happy in any occasion that I could testifie how much I am.

297. JAMES, LORD BURNTISLAND, to FRANCIS, BARON DE WEYMES.  
History of the Parents of Lord Burntisland, etc. 15th December 1677.

[Abridged from original draft in French.]

LORD BURNTISLAND congratulates the baron on his promotion, which he considers the just reward of his valour and services. He





expresses his pleasure that the copy of the borebrief had given satisfaction to the baron, and informs him that the original was to be sent by a ship of the earl's just sailing for London, and the earl had written to a friend to consign it to Sir Richard Mason, the friend of Mr. Skelton. Lord Burntisland then enters on the history of Macduff's eldest son and his descendants, Earls of Fife, down to Murdach, Duke of Albany, according to the usual histories. In reference to the baron's request for a genealogical tree Lord Burntisland says that neither Earl David nor his ancestors were anxious about keeping one, and to make one now would be very difficult, and proceeds to give particulars of his own and his father's history :—" For myself, I was almost a stranger in Scotland till I was married, being born and brought up in England; and I had seen France, Germany, and Holland before I had been in Scotland. My father left home very young, went to Sweden, and served King Gustavus Adolphus in the war in Germany. He was afterwards recalled to England by the King [Charles I.], who gave him the office of master of ordnance of England, as well by sea as by land, with a pension. There he married my mother, an English lady. After the death of the king he returned to Scotland, where he had never been since his youth. The present king gave him the office of general of artillery of Scotland and a regiment of infantry. He served the king in the war against Cromwell, and at the battle of Worcester, where the king escaped and retired to France, he was taken prisoner, and was warded several years. On the king's return to England he was replaced in his offices in England and Scotland, which he enjoyed till his death, which was at London in the year 1666. He left me, in addition to the castle of Burntisland and some lands in Scotland, some lands also in England, two leagues from London, which he had with my mother. After I was married I sold them, and brought in value to the house of Wemys more than ——."



298. FRANCIS, COUNT DE WEYMES to [JAMES, LORD BURNT-ISLAND]. With present of portrait, pistols, &c., Venice, 10th March 1685. [Contemporary translation.]

SIR,—It is about two yeares since assuming the 'honour to my selfe to writte to yow some letteres, and receaving no answeare, I atte the present time remaine expecting, hopping neverthelesse that yourselfe, with Madame, your lady, and your sones, ar enjoying happinesse and health, which I wish yow, and prayeth God for that effect! The affaires of my house hath brought me here from Germany; my two brothers are on sea following out their offices in service of the Republique. And my goodbrother having at London a correspondent, by name Joseph Wright, I thought fitting to make addresse to him this lettere that he may send it safely: and if yee doe me the favour to send ane answer, he wille addresse it here to Venise to his oune correspondent, John Piatti, who surely wille deliver it to me, who wille be extreamply glaid to know of your newes. With the occasion of a wessele which is here bound for England, I have sente yow a little boxe in which is my portrait upon harden,<sup>1</sup> a carabine, and a paire of pistolls wrought in the forme used in Brescia, vith fusy or fyrwarke, and a musquet of wheellewarke in the Hungarien forme sente me from Merpeilier. He hath ordere to send thes securly to yow: it wille be a little memory yee may be plaised to conserve of ous besids your selfe, of ous, I say, who hath our origine from thence. Befor yee make use of thes saids armes yee may cause ueue them; for they telle me that on of the Cannes of Brescia is under a little opened, and therfor yee most take it out of the boxe and see it. With which showing my respects, and sending my salutations to your lady and children; and if ever I can be free of the confusion of affaires, I desire much to see yow, and in presence to

<sup>1</sup> The portrait is still preserved at Wemyss Castle.



asseure yow how much I am, sir, your most humble and obedient  
servant and cousin,

CONTE FRANCIS DE WEIMYS.

Indorsed: Count Wemyss his letter, translated into English,  
dated 10 March 1685.

299. FRANCIS, COUNT WEYMES, to [MARGARET, COUNTESS OF  
WEYMYS]. Death of her husband. Taissey, 8th September  
1685. [Contemporary translation.]

MADAM,—Its with a most sensible displeasure that I vnderstand by  
yours of the 5th of May the death of my lord, your dear husband, and  
of your childring, my much honor'd couplings, having never receiv'd  
any letters, by which you had the goodness to impairt it to me. Thair  
lose is the moir deplorable that thair flourishing age neided it not.  
However, Madam, with yow I pase any complement of condolence,  
and must look to God for His consolation; and that it may please Him  
to preserve yow, with the Lord Elcho, your sone, and your daughters,  
in health and felicity, asureing my selfe that in vertues and merit they  
shall render them selves equall to thair progenitors and ancestors. I  
gave ane acompt to my brothers of your condition, both of them being  
at sea in the service of this republique in the warr with the Turks, both  
in honorable posts, the one a captain [colonel], the vther ane governor,  
and having with them a sone, also a captaine. I am confident they  
will regreet your lose, and at the same tyme rejoyce of your good health  
and childrings. I am here retired at my estate, to have some ease  
and rest after the travaill and fatigues of warr, which I have followed  
by the course of forty years, and having here married a daughter of  
mine, both honorably and with advantage, with ane nephew of mine  
oune, a sister's sone, and set my eldest sone to the academy with a  
nephew, also my brother sone, who also hes ane daughter; and who all



makes vp our family in this place, besids such as ether are married or religiouse.

When I was in Germanie some years agoe I had ane great desyre to have come and seen yow, and I am yet in the same thought, if my affairs can allow it, and doe not hinder me, as in former tymes they have, being ingaged in my prince's service, which could not spare me so many months as such a voyage would require. However, I shall not fail from tyme to tyme to give yow ane acompt of my selfe, ether by Monsieur Wright by way of London, or by Monsieur L'Abby de Letto from this, who being with Cardinall Barbarigo, and in a short time I may be determined, being to goe in a few months to Venise, for that Cardinall's grandfather was he that established my father in the service of this republick, and by that means may establish a sure and ready correspondence, for your letter was full four months by the way. Yow have received the picture and some other small things, for a marque and remembrance of us here, and [I] am much obliged to the good inclinations of my lord, your sone, towards us, for the respect which he hath and observed. In the letter you favoured me with I observe one thing curious and extraordinare ennuch, which is that when ane head of the family dyes ane vther of the same blood follows, and upon a certaine peice or stone appears ane crosse. For that cause, Madam, I entreat yow may let me know the precise specialitys of that storry; if it his been of a long tyme; if it, the figure of the crose, remains or evanisheth immediatly thereafter, and if thair be many such great and extraordinare remarques.

Thair remains no more, Madam, then to make you certaine by this that all of us on this syd shall for ever be found of a syncere affection and most particular estime and a profound respect towards yow, my lord, your sone, and your daughters, and who all humbly saluting, wee are all, as I subscribe my selfe, Madam, your most obleided and obedient servant and cousing,

FRANCIS OF WEEMYSS.





300. MEMOIR of the Family of DE WEYMES in Italy, entitled, "Comment la Famile des Weymys s'est establie en Italie, dans les estats de la Republique de Venise, et l'estre en lequel elle se trouue ce dernier iour de Mars 1677."

[Abridged from the original French.]

ABOUT the end of the last century England sent troops into Flanders under the conduct of Sir Francis Vere, with whom went several Scottish cadets of the house of Wemyss, two being brothers named Cornelius and Gerard, sons of Alexander. Cornelius was a captain, and fell at the battle of Nieuport, leaving by Antoinette his wife, three sons, Cornelius, Andrew and Leonard, and a daughter Jeanne.

Cornelius, the oldest, at the time of the revolutions in Bohemia, went thither with his uncle, Gerard, cornet in the regiment "de la Ramée," and finding himself at Vienna when the emperor despatched an ambassador extraordinary to the Grand Seigneur of the Turks, he went with him to Constantinople, where he took service in the regiment of Volini des Vallons, which in the wars of Hungary rebelled, and a party of them passed over to the army of the Turks, by whom they were taken into service, being allowed the liberty of the Christian religion. With that regiment he went to Persia, and then to Egypt, where he stayed four years, and was particularly employed against a rebel Bassa [Pasha], who was defeated and slain.

Returning to Constantinople, by the aid of the ambassadors of France and Venice, he obtained his dismissal, and came to Venice, where he found war declared with the Archduke of Austria, residing in Styria, on account of the Vscogues, pirates of the sea; and the republic having resolved to make a levy of foreign soldiers, he, as one who knew the language and country, received a special salary, and was sent with the Venetian ambassador and commissary to Flanders and Holland, and



returned with a regiment of 4000 men, in which he was captain, and they were sent to the war in Friuli.

On peace being made with the archduke, the regiment was sent on a naval expedition to oppose the designs of the Spanish Duke of Ossuna against the republic, which being defeated, the regiment returned to Venice, where, on account of their pay, they made a great tumult, and partial mutiny, which was put down by Cornelius' enterprise, and the regiment sent to the confines of Milan and the Valceline, where for the sake of that valley and the passage of Germany into Italy there was much noise of arms.

While at Venice, Messrs. Reins and Herman offered to receive him as a third in their company for trade, which he declined, as not suitable to his birth and inclination. In a few years they made a million of money.

Contracting a friendship with a gentleman of Brescia, of one of the first families of Desenzan, Cornelius stayed with him some time at Desenzan, married his sister, and held a splendid wedding, with tourneys, jousts, balls, and comedies, in such manner that the like had never been seen in that country. His wife was named Catarina, and her dowry was assigned to her in a village called Tassere, near Desenzan, with some lands, which was the reason that he afterwards bought other lands in the same place, and made his residence at Brescia, the chief town of the province.

During the dispute regarding the succession to the Duchy of Mantua, the republic assisted the duke against the imperialists, and ordered Cornelius to go to the duke, making him colonel with a regiment, and the duke employed him as sergent-major de bataille, giving him the title of Baron.

At that time his two brothers came into Italy, Andrew and Leonard. The latter died young, and Andrew, after the war of Mantua, was made captain in the Regiment de Galas of the troops of the



emperor in Italy, went to Germany, and died in Bohemia. The father and brothers of Cornelius' wife were at this time carrying on a feud with other gentlemen of the country, which lasted some years, and led among other deaths to that of his father-in-law. On the renewal of the wars between France and Spain, Cornelius had permission from the republic to enter foreign service, under obligation to return if required, a pension being assigned to him, and a company given to Francis, his eldest son, then under age. Cornelius went to Piedmont, and in the army commanded by the Duc de Crequi he had the post of aide-de-camp, was made a "marechal de bataille," and had some companies of fusiliers. In that employ he remained for some years, but when the Venetians made a league with other princes against the Pope, he was recalled and put in charge as quartermaster-general; and while with General La Valette at Creve Cœur he received a shot from a carbine in the breast, near the left shoulder, which healed in course of time, but the ball, which was iron, was never extracted. At the end of that war the Turks attacked the republic in the isle of Candia, whither Cornelius was sent with Captain-general Grimani, who employed him in the command of certain vessels; and after some time, having returned to Venice, he was sent to Dalmatia, where there was war, with the oversight of the armies of that province, and there especially at the siege of Cattaro, which was abandoned by the Turks, he rendered himself conspicuous, with General Don Camille Gonzague.

Being advanced in age, and much incommoded with the wound in his shoulder, which caused him to vomit blood, Cornelius remained for some time at home, till the troubles arose between the Pope and France, it being feared the French might seize Monferat, belonging to the Duke of Mantua, where Casal is,—a place very important for the liberty of Italy. The duke, with consent of the republic, sent him there as sergeant-general de bataille, and commander of all the forces in the district.



He was afterwards sent to the government of the fortress of Asola Bressana, in place of his son Alexander, who was then with the ambassador of Venice ratifying a peace with the Turks at Constantinople. At Asola his wife Catarina died, having been married forty-eight years, and as a particular favour, because he had no tomb there, she was buried among the nuns of Sainte Claire, of which monastery one of her daughters was abbess. On the return of his son Alexander, Cornelius returned home, living several years till the year 1676, in the month of March, having gone to hunt, at his return he was seized with asthma, and at the age of eighty-four, in presence of most of his relatives, he passed to another life, where it is hoped he may be eternally with God.

He is described as of a good presence, middle stature, robust, and broad-shouldered, learned in warfare, with a sound judgment, and a great facility of learning languages, six of which he spoke perfectly.

He left by his wife six children living, three sons and three daughters. Of the daughters the eldest, Minerva, was married to a gentleman of Brescia, of the family of Roueia. She is left a widow, with six children.

The second, Portia, became a nun at Asola Bressana by the name of Anne Marie, in the monastery of Sainte Claire, where she is abbess.

The third, Marie, was married to a gentleman of Bergamo of the Piatti family, who lives at Venice, where he has a great business, and is very rich.

To the eldest son, François, while still young, the republic of Venice (the Doge Erizzo being his godfather), for his father's deserts, gave the "compagnie colonelle" of his father, with permission to go abroad to learn the art of war. His father took him to Piedmont, and thence sent him to Paris, where he was placed at the academy to learn the exercises of the nobility. His father also made him carry a musket





two years in the regiment of guards, where he took part in the campaigns in Flanders, and practised the art of engineer of fortifications, which he had learned at Paris, at the sieges of Aire, Lans, la Bassée, Thionville, and other places.

The republic being at war with the Turks, Francis was recalled, and found his company already despatched to Candia. He appointed Louis, his brother, captain of it, he having previously served as ensign in the war with the Pope. Louis, with the company, being sent to Canée, which was vigorously attacked by the Turks, was slightly wounded in an assault, and as he was desirous to be at the head of his company to repel an assault, he fell mortally wounded by a musket shot, and the company was given to his brother Alexander. Francis, meanwhile, was detained at Venice in the capacity of engineer of fortifications, to construct two fortifications at the embouchure of the main gate of Malamoe of that city, of which he had made the plan. He afterwards raised a regiment of infantry, with which he went as colonel to the naval force and to Candia, where he engaged in several sea fights and enterprises in the archipelago and kingdom of Candia, being governor of Martinenque and Fort St. Marie.

On his return five years later to Venice he, in consequence of a quarrel, entered the service of the Duke of Modena, who commanded the armies of France in Italy, making war in the State of Milan, and with the rank of colonel was captain of the guards of cavalry of Prince Borzo d'Este, uncle of the duke, who was general of the particular troops of Modena united with the French army. He held also the office of engineer, and continued there for four years, being at the sieges of Pavia, Valance, Alexandria, Mortara, and other places. On the death of the Duke (of Modena), and peace being made between France and Spain, Francis returned home.

At this time certain lords of Venice had laid a project for an attack upon Constantinople by twelve ships of war and twelve barks, armed



at their own expense. [Here the narrator goes into a long explanation of the enterprise and the state of the Ottoman Empire, the internal troubles of which seemed to favour the scheme which the promoters hoped to carry out with the aid of the Cossacks.] In pursuance of their purpose, the Venetian lords employed Francis to treat through Prince Ragozzi of Transylvania with the Cossacks. He accordingly travelled to Upper Hungary to the prince, and communicated the enterprise to him, who approved it, and sent to the Cossacks. They promised to occupy the Black Sea, in the ensuing month of August, with as many vessels as they could fit out, and prevent provisions reaching Constantinople. The prince also gave Francis a black Turkish horse, with a "belicon" of silver gilt, and promised to assist the enterprise. [The project, however, came to nothing, as the prince shortly after fell in battle against the Turks. The Cossacks alone did their part.]

In passing through Vienna Francis visited Prince Gonzague, chief of the council of war, and through his means shortly after entered the service of his imperial majesty as engineer-general, with the title of colonel, where he was employed principally in fortifying the frontier against the Turks in Hungary, such as Jauarin, Commore, and at Vienna, residing commonly in that city for orders from the council of war. He acted also on several occasions in the last war against the Turks, and the war against France, as quartermaster-general in the imperial armies.

A marriage having been agreed on between the sister of the Emperor Leopold, the Archduchess Leonora, and Michael, King of Poland, it was necessary that she should set out from Vienna the first days of February, to be at Cestocovie by the end of that month, where the widowed empress, her mother, accompanied her, to celebrate the marriage before March, because the General Diet was held in Poland at the beginning of that month, and it was considered they would not permit the newly-elected king to marry. But two days before setting



out a storm came on, melting the snow and ice, and so flooding the Danube, that though previously quite frozen over, it broke down all the bridges of Vienna; while it was impossible to cross in boats because of the great pieces of ice, which broke and swept them away.

The court being much embarrassed, and there being no means of passage, nor any appearance that the weather would change, or the bridges be replaced, Francis proposed to stop the course of the ice, and with the floating masses to make a bridge on which a crossing might be made. The proposal was thought wholly ridiculous, but he was allowed to do as he wished. He selected at Fischer, four leagues from Vienna, a part of the river where it was in one stream two thousand four hundred common paces broad, and consequently less deep and rapid. He placed on both sides several men with long hooks for the distance of fifty paces, to catch all the larger pieces of ice floating on the river, and by throwing water upon them, which immediately froze, he united them together. The work advanced from both sides, and in four days the workmen were able to join the sections. The work was then strengthened with planks and straw. It was like a bridge, which stopped all the floating ice, while the water ran freely beneath, and over this the whole court passed without accident with their heavily laden conveyances, so that the empress and queen arrived at Cestocovie, and the marriage took place. For this service, Michael, King of Poland, as well as the empress, rewarded Francis with a chain and medal of gold. Francis also made several improvements in regard to the embankment of the Danube, which had much effect in lessening the ruin caused by inundations.

He is described as of ordinary stature, with chestnut hair, somewhat dusky in complexion, of a serious humour rather than melancholy, not married, but having several children, all of whom are dead except two daughters—one of whom is a nun, and the other wishes to be. He has fought several duels, out of which he came with honour.



He was once wounded with the stroke of a sword, which nearly cut his throat, and at another time had a wound on the cheek, which has never rightly healed, and has enfeebled his head. His age is fifty-four years.

Alexander, another son of Cornelius, when under age, obtained the company of his brother Louis, who was killed by the Turks in an assault on Canée. The company was afterwards defeated, and the republic gave him a special pension, with which he afterwards went to Candia. The General Marquis Ville being quartered in the town, Alexander left the camp on an expedition with 4000 men, and encountered a large force of Turks. The combat which followed raged long and bloody, when Alexander, meeting with Achmet Bassa, commander of the Turks, slew him with a stroke of his sword, on which the Turks lost heart, and were utterly routed. The republic, as a mark of their gratitude, gave him an annual pension in addition to his pay. He afterwards served on various occasions, and reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel; and being at the defence of Panigra in the last siege of Candia, he was wounded by a musket shot in the right arm.

He became a colonel, and on peace being made, went with the ambassador extraordinary of the republic, Moulin, to Constantinople, for the ratification of the peace. During which time the republic gave him the government of the fortress of Asola Bressana, his father assisting in the same office till his return, in which office he continues at present. He is thirty-six years of age, handsome, of good stature, and with fair hair. He has studied a little, has a good judgment, and is so just that many refer their disputes to him as arbiter, and he is loved and esteemed by them.

Andrew, the youngest son of Cornelius, was taken into the service of the republic, and sent to Dalmatia on the occasion of the war, where, some time afterwards, he was made governor of the little fort of Budua, in the Albanian Sea. A great earthquake overthrew the town





and villages, and most part of the house of Budua. Andrew was then out hunting, and on his return found his dwelling overthrown, and all those who were within killed. He married honourably in that province; and a short time after his wife's death he was despatched with succours of men, provisions, and ships to Candia, where he remained till the end of the siege, and was a captain of the guards "du general bataille," with a company. On the peace he returned to Venice, and was sent to Dalmatia as governor of the castle of St. Nicholas at Cattaro, where he was again married to a lady of good family, and has two sons and one daughter. He is thirty-four years of age, tall and stout; a man of resolution, high-handed, and one who makes himself feared.

301. BOREBRIEF of FRANCIS, BARON DE WEYMES, General  
Engineer to His Imperial Majesty. 1st May 1677.  
[Contemporary copy of official extract.]

CAROLUS Dei gratia Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, fidei, defensor, etc. Universis et singulis Regibus, principibus, ducibus, marchionibus, archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, vicecomitibus, prioribus, nobilibus, præsidibus, senescallis, baronibus, civitatum consulibus, primiceriis, magistratibus, necnon omnibus et singulis admiraliis, viceadmiraliis, præfectis provinciarum, regionum, urbium, arcium, castrorum, exercituum, classium, navium, frætorum, sinuum, fluviorum et pontium, omnibus denique terrâ marive imperium summum vel subordinatum exercentibus, et cæteris quibuscunque ad quorum notitiam præsentis hæ literæ nostræ patentes pervenerint, perpetuam felicitatem et salutem in eo qui suorum salus est vera et certissima: Quandoquidem summa eorum quibus administratio Reipublicæ est commissa cura esse debet et conatus, ut virtutis studiosis et bene merentibus de Republicâ debitus honos conferatur et conservetur, in vitiosorum



contemptum et contumeliam, ad bonorum vero emolumentum et gloriam; Atque adeo nos quidem hactenus, ne in hac re negligentius providisse videremur, obnixè quantum ex re nata fieri potuit, et sedulo dedimus semperque dabimus operam ut quæcunque generosi sanguinis, præclarive facinoris, vel aliarum rerum insignium, a majoribus derivata sunt jura et encomia, eadem apud posteros (nisi ipsi a probitate et vestigiis majorum desciverint) quam longissima fieri possit serie, sarta et tecta maneant, quo et ipsi post geniti stemmatis sui præclarissimi memores, nil parentum amplitudine indignum, aut abs fama eorum integrâ alienum committant sed ad parem accensi laudem, aliquam propriâ virtute lucis accessionem, claritudini majorum coruscanti superaddant, et sic pari conatu, dicam [us] et majori, proavos æmulati, probos et fideles Regi et patriæ in omnibus, pro viribus, se subditos et cives præsentent: Hinc quidem factum est, ut generis nobilitate et animi fortitudine illustrem virum, fidelem serenissimi avi nostri, memoriæ beatissimæ subditum et civem dominum Cornelium Weyms in Belgio militum ductorem prudentissimum hâc commendationis et benevolentiam nostræ tesserâ, exornare statuerimus: Quumque ipse eximia suæ fortitudinis, fidelitatis et prudentiæ multa et præclara specimina tam domi quam peregre præsertim in Belgio (quippe qui in prælio apud Neoportum fatali fortiter pugnans occubuit) usque adeo dederit, ut majorum suorum splendori lucis suæ face non parum addidisse videretur: Nos pariter indubitatæ veritati atque honoribus et munus a majoribus nostris serenissimis Scotorum regibus in illius majores collatis, ex æquo et bono firmum nostrum testimonium (quod posteris ipsius beneficii loco apud alios præsertim apud bellicosos Germanos et Italos præclaros, inter quos sedes suas posuere esse possit) suppliciter a nepotibus ejus (ex filio suo domino Cornelio Weyms militum tribuno, exercitus instructore generali Baronisque insignibus a serenissimo Mantuæ Duce aucto genitis) nimirum a domino Barone Francisco Weyms militum tribuno, castrorum præfecto, et a bellicis Augus-



tissimæ Imperatoriæ Majestatis, præcipue Viennæ machinamentis, a domino Alexandro Weyms chiliarcho Castelli Asulæ præfecto et a domino Andrea Weyms Cattarri in Dalmatia præfecto, utroque sub Venetis militantibus fratribus germanis, in re militari et prudentiâ civili admodum exercitatis et longe peritissimis rogati non denegamus : Post factam igitur ab illustribus et fide dignissimis viris, gentium ut plurimum illarum unde ille originem suam duxerat phylarchis, (quibus nos id muneris demandavimus,) diligentem inquisitionem de stemmate et prosapiâ prædicti illustris viri, compertum est nobis, et nos idcirco notum ac certum facimus et manifestum esse publice testamur, prædictum dominum Cornelium Weyms militum ductorem fortissimum legitimum et legitimo thoro et matrimonio et ex utroque parente nobilissimo et generoso natum esse, et ex illustrissimis et admodum præclaris familiis paternum et maternum genus jam multis retro seculis traxisse : Utpote ortum patre honorifico et illustri viro domino Alexandro Weyms barone de Caskyberry et Blarossy,<sup>1</sup> avo domino Davide Weyms, illustri barone de Weyms et Kilcadrum, equite aurato, et gentis Weymesiorum philarcho, cujus continua serie et legitima soboles est illustrissimus dominus David, Comes de Weyms, Baro illustris de Elcho, nobis a sanctioribus consiliis et affinitate junctus, gentis Weymesiorum antiquissimæ etiamnum princeps ; proavo domino Roberto Weyms, barone de Weyms et Kilcadrum ; abavo domino Joanne Weyms, barone de Weyms, etc., et conjuge sua, domina Euphania Glen, filia domini baronis de Glen familiæ principis et cohærede, unde illustribus Weymesiorum insignibus accessere Leones furvi in campo argenteo ferocientes ; attavo domino Davide Weyms, barone de Weyms ; tritavo domino Davide Weyms, barone de Weyms et equite aurato, gentis suæ philarcho, et ex equitibus a Scotorum ordinibus, ad adducendam (post fatalem Alexandri tertii regis Scotorum casum) de Norvegia, serenissimam Margaretam regis illius filiam regis vero Alexandri neptem,

<sup>1</sup> In another copy he is called James.



utriusque regni hæredem delegatis primo ; qui dominus David Weyms pronepos fuerat illustrissimi domini Duncani MacDuff, Fifensis comitis et omnium Scotorum procerum primi, ex magno illo Macduffo (qui cæso Mac-betho tyranno, principem longe prudentissimum Malcomum, a magnitudine capitis denominatum, ad regnum paternum reduxit) lineâ rectâ et serie legitima et mascula progeniti ; Davidis vero proavus comitis Mac-duffi filius secundus Macduff, cognomine omisso, Weyms a prædiis suis ad frætum Forthense longe opulentissimis (qui a multitudine antrorum adhuc etiamnum conspicuorum quæ linguâ Scotorum priscâ Woims appellantur) cognomen sibi suisque posteris imposuit ; avia vero paterna domina Margareta Sancta Clara filia domini Joannis, illustris baronis de Sancta Clara, ejus Majores Holsatiæ duces et Orcadum comites fuere, nepte domini Joannis, illustrissimi baronis de Sancta Clara, gentis antiquissimæ philarchæ, et conjugis suæ, dominæ Jannetæ Kethæ, filiæ illustris domini Marischalli gentis sui principis, cujus posteris, a multis seculis, comites Marischalli privilegio insigniti, adhuc etiam nobis sunt a sanctioribus consiliis, iisdemque honoribus florentes ; proavia vero prima domina Joanna Lindsey, filia domini Joannis, illustrissimi baronis Lindsey de Byrs, ejus successor jamjam Crafordiæ, comes Lindesiorum omnium princeps est, et conjugis suæ dominæ Catharinæ Douglas, filiæ domini Baronis de Lochlevin, progenies nunc ejus Mortoni Comitibus titulo exornatur ; proavia vero secunda domina Margareta Seaton, filia illustris baronis de Seaton, gentis suæ principis (ex posteris est illustrissimus dominus Joannes, Comes de Winton, nobis a sanctioribus consiliis gentis suæ fidelissimæ philarchus) et conjugis suæ, dominæ Catharinæ Hepburn, filiæ illustrissimi baronis de Halys, gentis suæ philarchi, posteris comites de Bothuel fuere ; stirpe vero materna, matre domina Isobella Wardlaw, hærede et barone de Caskyberry et Blarossy, filia domini Henrici Wardlaw, toparchæ de Caskyberry et Blarossy, nepte domini Gulielmi Wardlaw, baronis de Torry, pronepte domini Henrici Wardlaw, baronis





de Torry, gentis suæ philarchi, et conjugis suæ, dominæ Catharinæ Boswell, filiæ baronis de Balmouto, gentis suæ principis; avia vero domina Majoria Bruce, filia domini Alexandri Bruce, equitis aurati, baronis de Clackmannan, nepte domini Roberti Bruce, equitis aurati, baronis ibidem et gentis Brusiorum philarchi, et conjugis suæ dominæ Catharinæ Græm, filiæ comitis de Monteith; proavia vero prima domina Maria Dury, filia domini Alexandri de Dury, equitis aurati, et conjugis suæ, dominæ Helenæ Kemp, hæredis de Dury; proavia vero secunda domina Isabella Murray, filia domini Joannis Murray, equitis aurati, illustris baronis de Tullibardin, gentis Moraviorum principis, ejus vero soboles est Joannes, Marchio de Atholl, Comes de Tullibardin, illustris baro Murray de Gask, Balveny et Balquhidder, Scotorum equitum a custodia nostri corporis nobiliorum ductor et sigilli nostri privati custos, nobisque a sanctioribus consiliis, et conjugis suæ, dominæ Margaretæ Hadden, filiæ illustris baronis de Gleneglis, gentis suæ phylarchi. Qui omnes legitimis nuptiis copulati ex legitimis et ipsi thoris, ex illustrissimis et vere nobilissimis familiis oriundi fuere; omnes generis et virtutis splendore claruere, et a serenissimis Scotorum regibus progenitoribus nostris, ob præclara sua in hostes facinora et probatam in patriam fidem, magnis honoribus, muniis et muneribus ab omni ferme memoria jure merito omnes condecorati famam suam cum sanguine puram et integram sine labe, aut ullo contamine, ad posteros, etiam adhuc superstites majorum suorum virtutum æmulos transmisere. Quorum tenore vos omnes amicos nostros (sua cuique servatâ dignitate) juxta notos et charos rogatos obtestatosque cupimus, ut modo laudati civis nostri domini Cornelii Weyms nepotes prædictos omni humanitate, virtute et prudentia institutos, tot nominibus nobis charos, omnibus amoris, honoris et dignitatis officiis prosequamini, parem vobis reposituri gratiam, si ulla in re ope nostra aut auxilio uti volueritis. Quæ omnia sicut ex se vera sunt et firma, sic etiam ut apud universos et singulos testatiora et certiora fiant, et ut cunctis pro



manifestis innotescant, non gravatim has patentēs nostras literas, prædicti domini Cornelii Weyms nepotibus clarissimis concessimus. Quibus etiam ad plenam apud omnes fidem faciendam sigillum nostrum Augustius appendi curavimus. Datum Edinburgi ex palatio nostro Sanctæ Crucis Calendis Maii anno Æræ Christianæ supra millesimum sexcentessimum septuagesimo septimo (regni vero nostri vigesimo nono).

Thus written upon the back of the principall : Sigillatum Edinburgi secundo die mensis Maii 1667 [1677]. Sic subscribitur Jo. Cunnyng-hame. Scriptum ad magnum sigillum Calendis Maii 1677. Will. Ker.

#### ABSTRACT.

The borebrief, after the preamble, bears that Sir Cornelius Wemyss, a subject of King Charles the Second's grandfather, was a most skilful officer, and died fighting bravely at the battle of Nieuport, in the Netherlands (Belgio); and to bear witness of the offices and honours bestowed on his ancestors, especially by the Kings of Scotland, among the Germans and Italians, where his descendants had fixed their habitation, the king grants this testimony, at the request of his grandsons, the issue of his son, Sir Cornelius Wemyss, colonel, whom the Duke of Mantua made instructor-general of his army, with the rank of baron, viz., of Baron Francis Wemyss, colonel, prefect of the camp and of the artillery of his imperial majesty, especially at Vienna; Sir Alexander Wemyss, captain, governor of the castle of Asola; and of Sir Andrew Wemyss, governor of Cattaro in Dalmatia. The king, therefore, after causing diligent inquiry to be made as to his lineage, testifies that the said Sir Cornelius Wemyss, officer, was the lawful son of Alexander Wemyss, baron of Caskieberran and Blairossy [in a draft and also in a copy of the borebrief he is called James Wemyss, laird of Caskieberran and Blairossy], his grandfather being Sir David Wemyss, baron of Wemyss and Kincaldrum, knight, head of the family of Wemyss, of whom in lineal descent is David, Earl of Wemyss,



baron of Elcho, connected to the king in his privy council and by affinity, chief of the most ancient family of Wemyss; his great-grandfather being Sir Robert Wemyss, baron of Wemyss and Kincaldrum; his great-great-grandfather being Sir John Wemyss, baron of Wemyss, and his spouse, Euphania Glen, daughter and co-heiress of the baron of Glen, chief of the family, whence accrued to the family of Wemyss in their coat of arms the lions yellow in a field silver, rampant; his great-grandfather's grandfather being Sir David Wemyss, baron of Wemyss; his great-grandfather's great-grandfather being Sir David Wemyss, knight, chief of his family, and one of the knights appointed by the Scottish estates (after the death of King Alexander the Third) to bring home from Norway, Margaret, daughter of the king and granddaughter of King Alexander: which Sir David Wemyss was the great-grandson of Duncan MacDuff, Earl of Fife, and first of the nobility of Scotland, descended in right line and male succession from the great MacDuff (who, on the slaughter of the tyrant Macbeth, brought back to his kingdom, Malcolm, whose surname was derived from the largeness of his head); and David's great-grandfather, the second son of Earl MacDuff; omitting his surname, took the surname of Wemyss from his estate, a very opulent one, near the Firth of Forth (from the vast number of caves which are still conspicuous, and which in the ancient language of the Scots are called Woims). His paternal grandmother was Lady Margaret St. Clair, daughter of Sir John, baron of St. Clair, whose ancestors were Dukes of Holstein and Earls of Orkney, being granddaughter of John, baron of St. Clair, chief of the family, and his wife, Lady Janet Keith, daughter of Lord Marischal, chief of his family, whose posterity have been Earls Marischal for many ages, and are still flourishing in the king's privy council and the same honours. His first great-grandmother was Lady Jean Lindsay, daughter of Sir John, Lord Lindsay of Byres, whose successor is now Earl of Crawford, and chief of the Lindsays, and of his wife, Lady Catharine Douglas,



daughter of the baron of Lochleven, whose descendants are now Earls of Morton. His second great-grandmother was Lady Margaret Seton, daughter of the baron of Seton, chief of his family, of whose descendants are John, Earl of Winton, in the king's privy council, chief of his most loyal family, and of his spouse, Catharine Hepburn, daughter of the baron of Hailes, chief of his family, whose descendants were Earls of Bothwell. Of his maternal descent, his mother was Lady Isabella Wardlaw, heiress and baroness of Caskieberran and Blairossy, daughter of Sir Henry Wardlaw, laird of Caskieberran and Blairossy, granddaughter of Sir William Wardlaw, baron of Torrie; great-granddaughter of Sir Henry Wardlaw, baron of Torrie, chief of his family, and his wife, Lady Catharine Boswell, daughter of the baron of Balmouto, chief of his family. His grandmother was Lady Marjory Bruce, daughter of Sir Alexander Bruce, knight, baron of Clackmannan, grand-daughter of Sir Robert Bruce, knight, baron of the same, and chief of the family of Bruce, and of his spouse, Lady Catharine Graham, daughter of the Earl of Menteith. His first great-grandmother was Dame Mary Durie, daughter of Sir Alexander of Durie, knight, and his spouse, Dame Helen Kemp, heiress of Durie. His second great-grandmother was Lady Isabel Murray, daughter of Sir John Murray, knight, baron of Tullibardin, chief of the family of Murray, whose descendant is John, Marquis of Athole, Earl of Tullibardin, Baron Murray of Gask, Balveny, and Balquhidder, captain of the king's guards, keeper of the privy seal, and one of the privy council, and of his wife, Dame Margaret Haldane, daughter of the baron of Gleneagles, chief of his family. And the king, accordingly, certifies the aforesaid pedigree to the grandsons of the said Sir Cornelius Wemyss, under the great seal, at Edinburgh, at the palace of Holyrood, 1st May 1677.





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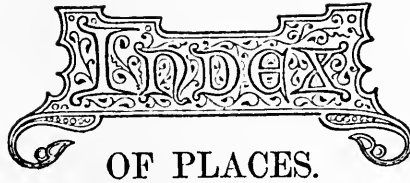


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